ELY news

Thursday, December 10, 2015 | ely-news.co.uk | 50p

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3p off a litre of fuel

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Tributes to 'amazing' family man

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

TRIBUTES have been paid to a "dedicated" family man who died following a tragic collision on the M11.

Paul Fallowes, 45, of Duck Lane, Haddenham, died in Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge on Saturday.

The HGV he was driving collided with another HGV near Madingley last Tuesday.

Paul had become a grandfather just four weeks ago.

His hobbies were spending time with his family and he was an avid West Ham fan.

In a statement released by police, his family said: "Paul's death is a tragedy and a massive loss. It will leave a huge hole in all of our lives.

'AMAZING': Paul Fallowes

"Paul was an amazing, dedicated, thoughtful family man. He always had time for others and was always there for everyone with a cheeky smile and a bear hug.

"He was totally committed to his family. He recently became a very proud grandfather and had a close relationship with his son Curtis and his granddaughter Eloise.

"Paul thought of stepdaughter Pennie and stepsons Patch and Maxwell as his own and was a real dad to them all."

His partner, Wanda, said she was devastated by Paul's death and described him as her "rock".

Anyone who witnessed the collision is urged to call police on 101.

THE MAN IN RED: George Patten, 11, below, met Father Christmas in St Mary's Street.

PICTURES: Richard Patterson

Here comes Santa

ELY'S annual Christmas street collection launched on Monday night.

The collection – organised by Rotarians to raise money for local charities – is taking place every weekday evening until Monday, December 21. It starts at 6pm and every street in Ely is visited.

■ **Go to *ely-news.co.uk* to find out when Santa's coming to your street.**

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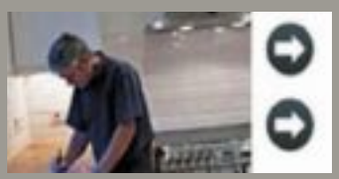

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EDUCATION

Ely College: 'Our aim is to be good again'

FROM LEFT: Tricia Pritchard, chair of governors at Ely College, Evelyn Forde, college principal, and Chris Tweedale, CEO of the CfBT School's Trust.

HAVE YOUR SAY
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or email: jordan.day@cambridge-news.co.uk

JORDAN DAY
@JordanDayCN

DOZENS of parents attended a meeting at Ely College to find out what is being done to improve the school.

Local MP Lucy Frazer called the meeting and chaired it on Friday afternoon alongside college principal, Evelyn Forde, the new chair of governors, Tricia Pritchard, CfBT School Trust's chief executive, Chris Tweedale, and Tim Coulson, who is the regional schools commissioner for the East of England.

The academy was placed into special measures in March and the CfBT Schools Trust brought in Evelyn as the new principal in April.

But after a follow-up inspection in October, Ofsted inspector Paul Tomkow said the academy is "not taking effective action towards the removal of special measures".

In a letter to parents, Mrs Pritchard said the focus of the meeting was on "progress with addressing the issues in the Ofsted inspection report and further plans for moving forward".

Around 60 parents attended the meeting.

A press conference was held immediately afterwards, at which Mrs Forde, Mrs Pritchard and Mr Tweedale were present.

Mrs Forde said: "My vision in April remains the same vision today – for Ely College to be the school of choice and that we become a school that delivers excellent outcomes for students.

"I know we are not there yet; it will take time to change some of the historical processes and change the ethos and culture that existed under the previous leadership but I recognise that there are fundamental areas of school improvement that we must continue to address now, one of which is improving teaching and learning in the classroom."

Mrs Forde came to Ely College from Langdon Academy in East London, where she was senior vice principal.

She has worked at six large comprehensive schools in London, which have ranged in 'outstanding' to being in 'special measures'.

Mrs Pritchard, who is a former Ofsted inspector and was director of education for the Diocese of Ely for around three years.

She said: "The governing body is fully supporting the leadership team as they strive to implement the changes that need to be made in order to accelerate pupils' progress and to accelerate the speed at which the school comes out of special measures.

"The governing body is also calling the leadership team to account by asking challenging and insightful questions.

"Turning around a school doesn't happen overnight but there should be no slippage.

"Our aim is not just to get Ely College out of special measures and for it to be a school that requires improvement – our aim is for it to be a good school again."

COMMUNITY

New youth club is finally opening

A LEADER has been found to run Ely's new youth club – and the facilities are opening next week.

The Youth Ely Hub (YEH) Charitable Incorporated Organisation has been wanting to open its new youth club at Centre E, in Barton Road, for months but has been unable to because a suitable youth leader could not be found.

But now, following an appeal in the *Ely News*, a youth leader has been found and YEH will be opening on Monday, December 14.

To celebrate, an open day is being held at the centre this Saturday from 11am-3pm.

Activities on offer include Nintendo Wiis, PlayStation 3s and table football. There are also free refreshments and wi-fi.

Already on site is Centre 33's Youth Drop-In Cafe, the Young Carers Group, SexYOUality, the Young Offenders Service and St Johns Ambulance.

Volunteers are still required. Email enquiries@centree@gmail.com.

POLITICS

Chancellor vows to 'look closely' at bid for A10 upgrades

GEORGE Osborne has told MP Lucy Frazer that he will "look closely" at her bid for the A10 between Ely and Cambridge to be upgraded.

During Treasury Questions last week, the Chancellor told the South East Cambridgeshire MP: "We have put a huge amount of investment into Cambridge, and I congratulate my honourable friend on the strong start she has made in recent months in championing her constituency. "That has been continued today with a big bid for the A10, which I will take a close look at."

Mrs Frazer said: "I am pleased by the positive indication from the Chancellor that he will be looking at my bid for an upgrade to the A10.

"Further infrastructure investment is needed not only to continue attracting economic investment to Cambridgeshire, but also to help those residents who frequently suffer from delays as they commute to work or take their children to school. I will follow this up with the Local Enterprise Partnership."

CRIME

Man arrested on suspicion of raping teenage girl

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of raping a teenage girl in Haddenham.

Cambridgeshire police announced on Tuesday that they have stepped up patrols in the village following reports of a serious sexual assault on a teenage girl last week.

The incident is reported to have happened at a recreation ground off Hop Row at about 7.45pm on Friday.

A 43-year-old man from Haddenham was arrested later the same evening on suspicion of rape.

He has been released on bail to return to Parkside Police Station in Cambridge on Saturday.

Area Commander for East Cambridgeshire, DCI Donna Wass, said: "I would like to reassure members of the public that we believe this to be an isolated incident.

"My first priority is care for the victim and protection of the local community which is why we have dedicated resources to provide an increased reassurance to both the victim and community."

Anyone with any information is urged to call police on 101.

Eco grotto is open to the public

AN 'eco-grotto' has been made entirely out of business waste.

The grotto, which has a Native American theme, is at the Re-imagine Resource Centre in Stirling Way, Witchford, which collects materials that would normally be thrown away and, for a tiny fee, makes them available to creative people to transform into works of art.

The grotto, which boasts a sleigh and even John Lewis penguins, is open to visitors throughout December and Santa himself will be making an appearance this Friday from 12.30-5pm.

Festive workshops are also being held at the centre. Search for the centre on Facebook to find out more.

RECYCLING CHEER: Site operative Liam Crow at the eco-grotto at the Re-Imagine Resource Centre in Witchford.

CAMPAIGN

School patrol cuts are closer

JORDAN **DAY** AND JON **VALE**

PETITION: Martin Skipper is one of hundreds of school crossing patrols who face losing their jobs

LOLLIPOP men and women across the Ely area are one step closer to losing their jobs next year.

Different committees at cash-strapped Cambridgeshire County Council are now working their way through the £41 million of cuts proposed by officers.

Last month, each committee asked officers to review particular cuts, with these results being presented back to the committees for review this month.

The council's highways and community infrastructure committee went first last week – and has given a steer as to what might escape the axe.

The committee refused to endorse cuts to mobile libraries and roads maintenance – but did recommend axing school crossing patrols and grants to the voluntary sector, as well as endorsing old plans to switch off the county's streetlights in residential areas between midnight and 6am.

As previously reported, cutting school crossing patrols will save the council £171,000.

Several schools in the Ely area have lollipop men and women, including Weatheralls Primary School and St Andrew's Primary School, both in Soham, Rackham Primary School in Witchford, Sutton Primary School and Littleport Community Primary School, to name just a few.

Many schools have started campaigning, including parents whose children attend Spring Meadow Infant and Nursery School and St Mary's Junior School, both in Ely's High Barns.

They have launched a petition in a bid to stop their lollipop man, Martin Skipper, from losing his job – and more than 600 people have signed it.

The council says a "wide-ranging consultation" is ongoing and that a decision will not be made until February.

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Introduction to Counselling Skills	13 April	10	Wed	1930 - 2130	£90	£68
Creative Fabric Crafts	5 Jan	5	Tue	1900 - 2100	£45	£34
Clothing Alteration Skills	5 Jan	5	Tue	1900 - 2100	£45	£34
Crochet Beginners to Intermediates	13 Jan	6	Wed	1930 - 2130	£54	£41
Illustration	29 Jan	5	Wed	1900 - 2100	£45	£34
Needle Felting	5 Jan	5	Tue	1900 - 2100	£45	£34
Photography In Focus	March	6	Wed	1900 - 2100	£54	£41
Sewing/Dressmaking	6 Jan	10	Wed	1900 - 2100	£90	£68
Stained Glass	5 Jan	10	Tue	1900 - 2100	£90	£68
Tudors in Popular Fiction	6 Jan	5	Wed	1930 - 2030	£45	£34
Upholstery	6 Jan	10	Wed	1930 - 2130	£90	£68
Upholstery	20 Apr	6	Wed	1930 - 2130	£54	£41
Watercolour	6 Jan	10	Wed	1900 - 2100	£90	£68
Yoga - Intermediate*	6 Jan	10	Wed	2000 - 2130	£68	£51
Yoga - Mixed Ability	5 Jan	10	Tue	1900 - 2130	£68	£51

* to be held at Sutton Pavillion

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CAMPAIGN

Will challenges Tesco over 'glorious meat' bag for life

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

MAN ON A MISSION: The petition to scrap the bags, left, was launched by Will Law, below

TESCO has agreed to phase out one of its controversial bag for life designs following uproar from animal lovers.

Will Law, from Littleport, launched a petition calling on the supermarket giant to ditch its 'Meat Glorious Meat' bag – and 2,526 people signed it within four days.

Tesco bosses have now confirmed that the bag will be phased out by February next year.

Mr Law, 22, is a student at Sussex University and a member of the Green Party. His petition on change.org, entitled 'Provide distinguishable bags for life that don't glorify killing animals', gained support from Amelia Womack, deputy leader of the Green Party, as well as numerous animal rights organisations and vegan groups.

Mr Law said: "This is a fantastic example of people being able to express their views using the democratic tools available to us today.

"In consideration of the World Health Organisation report about the carcinogenic risks of excessive meat consumption – as well as the state of animal welfare, the needless slaughter of 8000 million animals a year in the UK, and the fact that animal agriculture contributes more to climate change than all modes of transport combined – there really is nothing 'glorious' about meat."

HAVE YOUR SAY
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Among those who signed the petition was Sarah Harris, who said: "Animals should be respected and they deserve our compassion.

"They are force-bred, pumped full of hormones, they have to endure painful castration, horn removal and other procedures without pain relief, they are kept in small cramped filthy spaces where they can barely turn around if at all, babies are ripped away from their mothers, male chicks are ground up because they are considered as "waste" – so now tell me how any of that can be considered 'glorious'?"

Stella Goddard said: "This bag is offensive, insensitive and inappropriate."

Tesco apologised for any offence caused and stated via Twitter that the bags would be phased out by February 2016.

A spokesman for the supermarket said: "We always listen to feedback from our customers and although we never intended any offence with this design we are phasing it out in light of the feedback we have received."

Mr Law said: "We thank Tesco for recognising their error, and hope that they will now turn their efforts towards promoting the many benefits of a plant-based diet instead."

Mr Law is also trying to persuade Turnstone Estates, the firm behind Ely's new Cineworld complex, to ditch McDonald's and KFC for "healthier alternatives". His online petition has been signed by over 1,700 people.

DEVELOPMENT

Gypsy site plan

A NEW traveller site looks set to be built in Wilburton.

East Cambridgeshire District Council has received plans for eight traveller pitches to be built on land north of Amberside, based in Stretham Station Road.

The applicants are Messrs Tidd and Gray. In a statement, their agents said: "The site is currently underdeveloped grazing land.

"It is proposed to site eight mobile homes, each with space for a touring caravan and a brick built dayroom."

To have your say, visit eastcambs.gov.uk.

CHRISTMAS

Santa's on board

FATHER Christmas will be on board two trains travelling between Ely and Peterborough on Saturday.

The first journey at Ely is at 10.58am on the train that calls at Manea, March and Whittlesea before arriving at Peterborough at 11.39am. Santa will then take the 11.50am train back to Ely, arriving at 12.32pm.

On his second return trip he will leave Ely at 12.58pm, getting to Peterborough at 1.39pm. He will then head back on the 1.50pm service, due in to Ely at 2.32pm.

Mince pies and children's presents will be handed out. Normal ticket prices apply.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jewellery is stolen in raid

BURGLARS struck in the village of Upware – and police are keen to trace a vehicle seen in the area at the time.

The property was broken into at around 8.15pm last Tuesday.

Jewellery including a gold watch and a ring of "significant value" were stolen.

Speaking on the East Cambridgeshire Policing Facebook page, a police spokesman said: "We suspect that the offender(s) had prior knowledge of the area.

"We are keen to speak to anyone who observed any unusual activity or unusual people seen in the area that evening.

"We have particular interest in tracing a dark coloured Ford Mondeo saloon that was noticed in the vicinity." Call police on 101 with any information.

Have tea with Santa

FATHER Christmas will be at Littleport Leisure Centre on Sunday.
A Tea with Santa event is being held at the centre, in Camel Road.
It is running from 3.30-7pm and tickets are £3.50 per child. Places need to be booked in advance by calling (01353) 860600.

MORE LOCAL NEWS AT THE WEBSITE: ely-news.co.uk

FAMOUS FACE: Comedian Jo Brand with Dan Schumann, director of The Brook

Jo Brand draws the crowds to Soham

THREE hundred people packed inside The Brook in Soham to laugh the night away with stand-up comedian Jo Brand.

The witty star performed there last Thursday night – and the *Ely News* featured in her show.

Dan Schumann, director of The Brook, said: "Jo was fabulous. She was hilarious and stayed behind afterwards to sign autographs and have pictures taken with people.

"She asked us if she could have a copy of the local paper for her show, as she says it helps her find out more about the place where she is performing.

"She talked about the letters people had written in, including the ones about the confusing roundabout in Witchford Road, Ely!" Visit brookentertainment.co.uk.

COURT

Rapist has jail term reduced by 338 days

'DANGEROUS': Clive Howard

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

A SERIAL rapist who targeted vulnerable women walking alone in Ely and Cambridge late at night has had almost a year wiped off his sentence.

Clive Howard, 57, was dubbed the 'Nightstalker' after he admitted attacking at least six women over a period of nearly 30 years.

He was jailed for a minimum of ten years and three months in April, when he was branded an "extremely dangerous sexual predator" by detectives investigating the case.

However, on Friday, at the Court of Appeal in London, three senior judges said his jail term should be reduced by nearly a year.

The original term did not give him credit for the time he had spent on remand before he was sentenced, said Judge Anthony Leonard QC.

"We order that the minimum term be reduced by 338 days so as to take account of the days spent on remand," he said.

The judge, sitting with Lady Justice Rafferty and Mr Justice Openshaw, said Howard had been guilty of a "litany of the most appalling conduct".

Following a police appeal more than a dozen women came forward fearing they had been targeted by the father-of-six.

At his trial in Norwich he admitted six counts of rape against a woman in Ely between November 1986 and March 1993.

Howard, of Battisford, near Stowmarket, Suffolk, was caught after committing a seventh rape offence on a woman in St Helens Wharf car park in Norwich on May 30, 2014.

He also attempted to kidnap a woman in Cambridge at 2.15am on May 5, 2013, and admitted attempting to rape a second woman half an hour later at Christ's Pieces.

It was only when Norfolk detectives charged him with a rape in Norwich that his DNA was linked to a previously unsolved case in Cambridge.

At the time of his trial Det Sgt Chris Burgess of Norfolk Police described Howard as a "loner" who had lived with his parents since his marriage broke down 15 years ago.

At the time of his arrest, he had an 82-year-old girlfriend.

Howard can only be freed after serving his minimum term if the parole board is convinced he is no longer a danger to the public.

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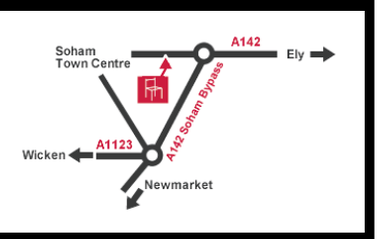

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Letters

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At the same time, we are constantly looking to improve our titles and are always happy to hear from you with suggestions and comments.
If you have any feedback for us please contact the relevant person or people listed.

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Impressed by college staff

I WANTED to register my appreciation of the teachers at Ely College who I spoke to at my son's parents' evening.

They clearly knew and understood my son very well. They were insightful, committed, and professional and gave great encouragement alongside detailed, specific advice on how to develop his skills further.

They listened to his opinions and ours as parents. They are clearly working in extremely stressful and challenging circumstances yet showed great dedication and professionalism. It would, I am sure, be very easy for teaching staff to seek alternative employment at this difficult period for the College but I, for one (and I know I am not alone) am immensely grateful to those who not only stay but who obviously work tremendously hard and show great concern for the education of the children in their care.

Mrs Anne Jackson
Norfolk Road
Ely

Pony numbers out of hand

LAST Thursday evening (December 3) I went to one of the now infrequent 'Community Liaison Forum' meetings at the National Trust's Wicken Fen Nature Reserve.

Under 'Any Other Business' I asked some questions about the wild and potentially dangerous Konik ponies from Poland which inhabit parts of the former food-growing farm land that form the so-called 'Wicken Vision' under the control of the National Trust.

I was astonished to learn that there are now 93 of these animals on the land and that no proper breeding programme is in place. The stallions and the mares run together, they breed at will and the stallions fight over the mares. I pointed out that, as anybody involved in animal husbandry knows, inbreeding is about as bad for animals as it is for humans.

As a person with some experience of keeping horses, I am concerned about the set-up at Wicken Fen and the welfare of so many equines on such a relatively small acreage. This isn't Exmoor with its 164,000 acres or the New Forest with its 140,000 acres; it's Wicken Fen with some 2,300 acres.

The Konik thing at Wicken Fen has become chaotic and appears to be out of hand.

Geoffrey Woollard
St Andrew's Park, Soham

INSPIRATIONAL: Paramedic Kim Brady and student paramedic Raistlin Dalby with students at Ely College Sixth-Form

Paramedics give lesson at college

STUDENTS were given an insight into the work of the region's ambulance service during a talk from two paramedics.

Paramedic Kim Brady and student paramedic Raistlin Dalby, who both work for the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) in Cambridge, visited Ely College Sixth-Form.

They conducted an interactive lesson on the day in the life of a paramedic – and what it takes to join the ambulance service.

They spoke to the BTEC Level 2 Public Services group, which aims to prepare students for a career in the uniformed and non-uniformed services.

Kim is a former Ely College student. She said: "It was great to return to the college and speak to the students about the work we do and hopefully many of them were inspired to want to become paramedics of the future."

A high price to pay, I expect

UNSURPRISINGLY, the swimming lobby want a better swimming pool at Ely's new leisure centre.

I would feel more able to support this idea if I knew the capital cost of the pool, and details of how much of the of day-to-day running cost is likely to be generated by the users.

An indication of these figures could no doubt be ascertained from the managers of the relatively new pool at Newmarket, I have a feeling these figures may well be unpalatable.

Frank Lindsell
St Johns Road
Ely

Teach them safety yourself

FURTHER to your front page last week about parents up in arms over the council considering abolishing lollipop people, much as I feel sorry that there may be job losses, whatever happened to the Green Cross Code of my childhood?

It was taught from a very early age by parents, police and schools – listen and look.

Look right, look left and look right again to make sure the road is clear. I live near schools and some children wander across the busy roads as if they own them, many texting (or whatever).

I realise there are some dreadful drivers on our roads now and much more traffic, but surely it is up to parents to take responsibility for their children knowing how to safely negotiate getting to and from school.

That is what zebra/school crossings are for!

It seems there is a general expectation for taxpayers, via government and local authorities, to take on parental responsibility.

Someone is quoted as saying this is "an awful view" and "it's not fair on children".

Why?

Given the amount of defensiveness and sense of entitlement some parents in this country have, no doubt I will be unpopular for having my views.

I was born when there was no child benefit, no free healthcare, free education was not great and food was rationed, so forgive me for thinking it is time that parents realise that having a child is a choice and there is a finite amount of tax money.

Count your blessings please and take on your own responsibilities for the precious gift of children.

Name and address supplied

What a show... and all that jazz!

WHAT an event Ely Rotary's new venture of a jazz band concert/dance turned out to be last Thursday evening (December 3)! The show was entitled 'Jazz Band Ball', as the opening tune was the 100-year-old classic *At the Jazz Band Ball*.

With an enthusiastic audience applauding each solo as the next soloist took over, the atmosphere was electric with so many well-known tunes, and some not-so-well-known. For example, they played a Latin American dance tune *Tipi Tipi Tin*, which, although jazz band style, was 'different' and so pleasing on the ear.

But well-known Kenny Ball tunes *I'm the King of the Swingers* and *So Do I* were performed at least as well as the originals, with the perfect vocals by Binky Pollack, whose outstanding voice accompanied so many of the offerings.

This was an evening that was different, an evening that left the audience on such a high that no doubt many of them were still singing the next morning.

In fact the final number summed up the complete evening: *Come to the Cabaret*. The whole evening was truly a cabaret, and one which so many in the audience insisted must be repeated again soon.

For news on Ely Rotary Club, the website is *elyrotary.co.uk*, where a section will be found that invites potential new members, or just a phone call to Eric Grant on (01638) 780827 would guarantee a positive response.

Eric Grant
Rotary Club of Ely

Please improve transport links

I NOTE your article on the traffic issues in Cambridge (*News*, November 25).

For information, this is a letter my mother sent to Lucy Frazer back in May (unfortunately she didn't receive a response). Dear Ms Frazer,

I live in Isleham. When my late husband and I first moved here 23 years ago, there was a bus service linking the village with Ely, Newmarket and beyond to Cambridge and Bury St Edmunds, which meant that local people

Letters of the month

You could win a boxed Sheaffer pen, if your letter is chosen as our letter of the month. Remember to include your name and full address

OUR POLICY
Please enclose your full address and daytime telephone number. Keep your letter to no more than 250 words. Ely News reserves the right to edit material. Letters should arrive by noon on the Monday before publication

WRITE TO
Letters to the Editor, Ely News, 27 Market Place, Ely CB7 4NP

EMAIL
editorial@ely-news.co.uk

(both young and old) had some independence on travelling outside the village and taking up employment further afield, even if they didn't have their own transport. This bus used to travel from Newmarket to Soham via Snailwell, Chippenham, Isleham and Fordham, offering the opportunity for people from all these villages to visit other towns for work, shopping, education, recreation, or just meeting friends. It also provided an essential link to the doctors' surgeries and dental practices in Newmarket and Soham (and of course the community hospitals in Newmarket and Ely – not to mention Addenbrooke's in Cambridge).

Sadly, all opportunities for public transport links have been taken from us. The Government very kindly offers free bus passes to elderly people, but I think this system is grossly unfair, as the only people who benefit are those who are lucky to be on a bus route. My only chance to use my pass has been when I have been lucky to persuade a neighbour to take me to Fordham to catch a bus from there, but sadly having to wait at a bus stop with no shelter or opportunity to sit down, I have been stranded on several occasions when buses have simply not turned up.

There are numerous elderly people in these villages who, although they dearly wish to give up driving, cannot survive if they do as they become trapped within their own homes.

We are extremely lucky to have a shop in our village and a good one it is too, supplying all our needs in food. However, for clothes or anything else we need to go elsewhere.

It is not just the elderly who suffer; teenagers have little choice other than to rely totally on parental help when getting to better schools or any other opportunities outside the village. It is even a challenge to join in after-school activities or meet with friends out of school whilst studying after the age of 11 in Soham.

The population is rising and prices are soaring for accommodation, especially in Cambridge. People will be looking to the villages for housing but this will limit their freedom if they cannot drive (especially as they get older).

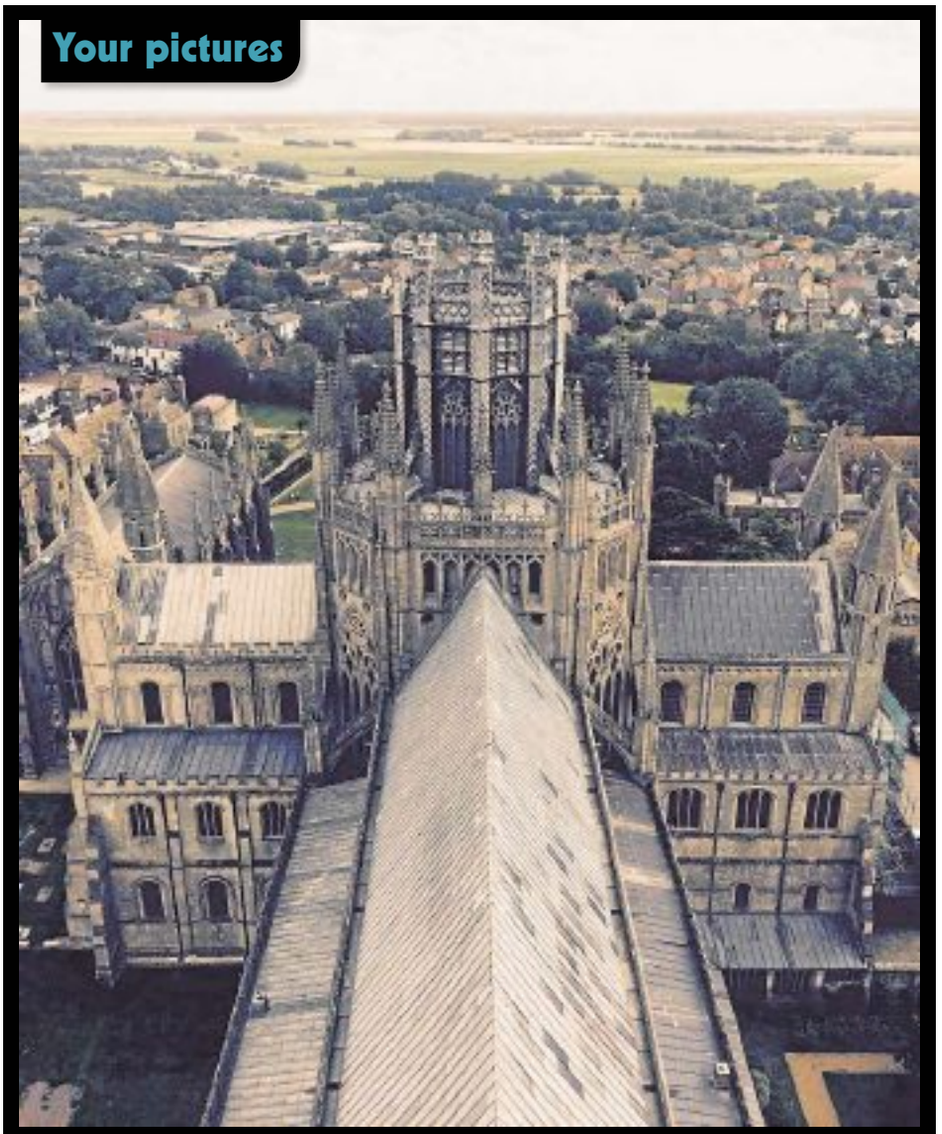
We appreciate that huge double-decker buses are not viable, but would it not be sensible to use smaller mini-buses, which can move more easily through the country lanes (and even through the narrow streets of Cambridge).

The provision of more transport has been high on our priorities in these villages for a long time, with support from local clergy, who know only too well how many people become trapped in their own homes due to the cuts in services.

Please, please could politicians try and help us in these communities to get better provision for young and old. Surely better transport links into Cambridge would also help traffic problems in the City, as right now both my daughter and granddaughter have no choice other than to drive.

Monica Howes
Isleham

Your pictures



WHAT A VIEW: Thirteen-year-old Marcus Elsom, from Witchford, took this photo while on a trip up the West Tower of Ely Cathedral earlier this year

We love to see your pictures. Send them in JPEG format marked 'Your Pictures' to wendy.davey@cambridge-news.co.uk. Please add your name, address and daytime telephone number, where you took the photo and, if possible, a picture of yourself! We reserve the right to reuse pictures at our discretion.

Ask those on waiting lists

IT has been reported that an apparent street survey showed that the people of Cambridge were delighted by the arrival of 50 Syrian migrants to the city.

If we had a surplus of housing stock, those sentiments would, of course, be admirable, but there are 2,700 desperate local people on the city council housing waiting list, many of them with little or no hope of ever being housed in their home city.

In light of those circumstances, I rather suspect that the people who were questioned on the matter were mainly non-Cambridge born, well-heeled university academics and wealthy upper middle class professionals who will never be personally disadvantaged by excessive immigration (net figures of 336,000 last year), and that they may well benefit from the opportunity of exploiting cheap migrant labour.

Had the 2,700 people of Cambridge who are on the housing waiting list been surveyed, I believe that the responses would have been somewhat different.

Alan Seymour
Morley Drive
Ely

What you had to say online at ely-news.co.uk

LOLLIPOP MEN AND WOMEN MAY BE CUT AMID COUNTY CUTS

JOY FRANCIS
All primary schools need lollipop ladies/men. They do a grand job of getting the children across the roads safely, especially with high volumes of traffic that still short cut through villages, when there are other main roads to use. They should be kept. The lollipop lady for Sutton Primary School is there come rain or shine, and that road is very busy. They should all be rewarded for doing what they do.

HAYLEY STEBBINGS
The Weatheralls Primary School in Soham has a lollipop lady and she does a fantastic job. She would be greatly missed if they were to get rid of her. Our children are much safer with her helping them to cross the road as cars don't like stopping at the best of times.

ALEXANDRA MILLARD
Littleport Community Primary School has a lollipop lady and she is very nice.

CAROL BUSHNELL
Unfortunately if we want these and other essential services to remain then we must be prepared to pay increased Council Tax. It's a hard choice.

REVIEW

Viva's production of *A Christmas Carol* in Soham Church on Friday

When one thinks of Dickens and Christmas the two combine to produce a cosy sense of tradition and that all will be well in the end. After a delightfully natural production of his *A Christmas Carol* by Viva, we were left feeling exactly this and such a production provided an excellent beginning to the season.

All the characters were there, finely dressed in appropriate costumes: Scrooge (played by David Tickner), haunted by the ghosts of his deceased business partner Marley, Bob Cratchit (Rowan Maulder), Scrooge's long suffering employee, and Tiny Tim (Max Moll).

The rest of the Cratchit family were splendid: Mrs Cratchit (Mary Barnes), Sarah Cratchit (Lola MacDonald), Martha Cratchit (Kate Weekes), Peter Cratchit (Maverick Brookes) and Belinda Cratchit (Sienna Warder).

The ghosts filled their roles very well: Spirit of Christmas Past (Lizi Nicholson), Spirit of Christmas Present (Phil Logan), and Spirit of Christmas to Come and the Fizziwig family were highly credible and entertaining: Fezziwig (Joshua Schumann), Mrs Fezziwig (Sheila Shorney), Fannie Fezziwig (Evie Dowding) and Emma Fezziwig (Emily Docwra).

Among other necessary characters included Young Scrooge(Jake Stearne), Boy and Scrooge (Xavier Brookes), Young Marley (Jack Wright), Ghost of Marley (David Moat), Agnes (Kirsten Martin), Dick Wilkins (Jordan Thorpe), Adolphus (David Blyth), Mrs Greenrow (Delia Tickner), Dora (Natasha Shorney) and Daniel (Vaughan Moll – also the director). Geoff Fisher appeared in the Ensemble as did a large number of the rest of the cast.

Two of the characters that really stood out for me were Scrooge (David Tickner) and Fizziwig (Joshua Schumann).

The humbug utterances, facial expressions and downright bitterness of Scrooge were delightful, while Fizziwig's gradual inebriation with his regular dips into the punch, his posh voice, his grand ineffectual gestures and stooped stance were priceless. Mrs Fizziwig's character (played by Sarah Shorney) was also highly entertaining and memorable.

The next Viva production to enjoy is *Educating Rita* next February. contact *viva-group.org.uk,* telephone: (01353) 722228.

Family Announcements

ely-news.co.uk/notices

Birthday Greetings

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY

KEITH JACKSON

Lots of love to our Wonderful Grandad on your 75th Birthday

Love and kisses, Ashley, Bethany, Laura, Harriet and Katie

xxxxx

Birthday Greetings

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY

KEITH JACKSON

Congratulations Dad on your 75th Birthday on 13th December.

Enjoy your day.

Lots of love, Carole, Jo. Helen, Lindsay, Mark and Andrew

xxxxxx

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY

KEITH JACKSON

Congratulations Keith on reaching three-quarters of a century!

Lots of love, Irene

xxxx

Family Announcements ely-news.co.uk 01223 666637

Happy 18th Birthday

RACHEL SALLIS

Happy 18th Birthday to our very special daughter Rachel on Saturday December 12th.

Have a wonderful weekend

Lots of Love from

Mum & Dad xx

18th

Happy 18th Birthday

RACHEL SALLIS

Wishing a special sister and auntie a very Happy Birthday

With lots of love from

Christopher, Julie & Mia xxx

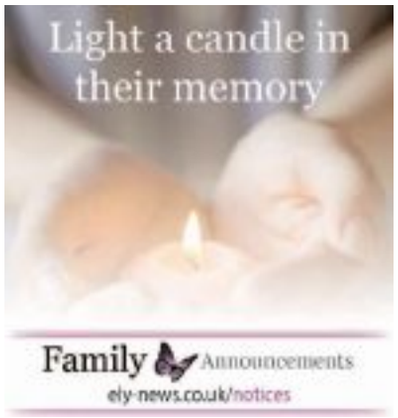
Family Announcements ely-news.co.uk

In Memoriam

HAWKES
Geoffrey and Sybil (Kathleen)

In loving memory of a dear mum and dad who passed away 12th December 2014 and 11th July 2005.
Always in our hearts and thoughts.
Love from Maiveen, Maurice, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

x x x



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MAKING WAVES: Local Scouts, including Greg Pollard, centre, broadcast their own radio show.

Scouts become radio DJs for the day

A GROUP of local Scouts have broadcast their own radio show.

Greg Pollard, from Ely, and James Traynor, Jamie Ward, Sophie Graham and Simon Burgess, who are all Cambridgeshire-based Scouts, were given an induction at Hereward Radio's offices before being shown how to use the equipment.

They then spent over 45 minutes discussing which was the best Explorer Unit in the county, international camps they had been on and their plans for camping in 2016. The next show is scheduled for January 12 at 7pm. Listen to it at herewardcommunityradio.co.uk.

EDUCATION

Opening of new school delayed

JORDAN DAY
@JordanDayCN

ELY'S new primary school will not be ready in time to open in January as planned.

Parents of children at the Isle of Ely Primary School received a letter from Cambridgeshire County Council last Friday telling them that the multi-million facilities will not be ready until the spring term.

In the letter, which has been sent to the *Ely News* by several angry parents, Vikki Spittles, the council's education capital projects officer, says: "I regret to have to write to you to inform you that unfortunately, we need to delay the hand-over of the new primary school building at Cam Drive.

"This is the result of a problem with the utility connections, despite every effort having been made to progress this work as quickly as possible.

"This has had a knock-on effect on the programme for the surfacing work to the highway road to the school.

"Until this work is complete, we do not have a safe access to the school.

"We also need to have an independent certificated test of all utilities once connected. We aim to have that certification in the New Year.

"In order to allow sufficient time for the school to move it is now planned to schedule the move to the new school accommodation in the spring term."

The school, which is run by the ALT, is currently operating from Ely St Mary's Junior School, in High Barns.

The ALT and Cambridgeshire County Council were hoping the new school – located in Cam Drive – would be finished in time for September this year but in March they announced the state-of-the-art facilities would not be ready until January.

The construction of the school has been managed by the Kier Group.

HAVE YOUR SAY
ely-news.co.uk
or email: jordan.day@cambridge-news.co.uk

COMMUNITY

Santa brunch

CHILDREN can meet Father Christmas in Stretham on Saturday.

A Brunch with Santa event is being held at Stretham Community Primary School from 10am-12pm.

Tickets are £7 per child, which includes refreshments and a gift from Santa Claus. Adults go free.

There will also be a tombola, face painting, a colouring competition, festive fancy dress, a raffle and photos with the man in red.

Tickets need to be purchased by calling (01353) 648858.

EMERGENCY

Man attacked

A MAN suffered serious head injuries in an attack in Ely on Friday.

Emergency services, including the East Anglian Air Ambulance, were called at around 9pm after a man in his 30s was assaulted outside The Hereward pub, in Market Street.

An East of England Ambulance Service spokeswoman said: "The man suffered head injuries and was taken to Addenbrooke's by land ambulance. His condition was serious."

Darren Powell, 35, of New Barns Avenue, Ely, has been charged with assault and is due to appear at Cambridge Magistrates Court on January 5.

TRANSPORT

MPs discuss 'frustrating' delays to Ely rail upgrade

KEY JUNCTION: MP Elizabeth Truss at Ely railway station

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

MPS have met with the Transport Secretary following the 'frustrating' announcement that the Ely North Junction will not be upgraded until at least 2019.

South East Cambridgeshire MP Lucy Frazer, South West Norfolk MP Elizabeth Truss and Mid Norfolk MP George Freeman met Patrick McLoughlin in the House of Commons to discuss the project and stress the importance of the upgrades.

On Friday, Mrs Truss then met with Network Rail and Govia Thameslink Railway represenatives at Ely railway station to discuss the scheme.

She said: "I want passengers and businesses to have certainty as soon as possible about when the half hourly service on the King's Lynn to London line will be in place and when the junction will be upgraded.

"The Ely North is such a key junction in East Anglia as once upgraded it will increase the capacity on a number of rail links."

The upgrades were due to be finished in the current spending round, which runs until 2019, however Network Rail has announced that the work will take place in the next spending period, which runs from 2019 until 2024.

Bosses say the delays are "to allow co-ordination with safety critical level crossing works nearby."

By doubling the junction, which is located at Queen Adelaide, it would allow trains to run every half hour from Cambridge to King's Lynn and Norwich.

James Palmer, leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, has also written to Network Rail. He said: "While I can understand the pressures Network Rail face, I do find it very frustrating given the rapid growth we are experiencing it is always our area which is affected by their decision to reschedule their plans.

"I would like to assure residents that I am writing to Network Rail seeking assurances that they will progress this project with no further delay."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Celebrations in Welney

VILLAGERS in Welney have a new community and sports pavilion to look forward to.

Planning permission has been granted for the new single-storey building on the village playing field.

The project to replace the dilapidated village hall and playing field pavilion has been in the pipeline for years and the new hall is being specially designed to support a wide range of sports and village activities.

Welney Parish Council has been successful in raising the £222,000 needed for the new building with help from the Marshals Charity Welney, WREN's FCC Communities Fund and the Sport England Inspired Facilities Fund.

It is hoped work on the new pavilion will start in March next year.

Don't forget to donate

NHS Blood and Transplant is urging residents not to allow their busy schedules over the Christmas period to get in the way of donating blood.

Donations typically fall to their lowest point of the year over the festive season.

Donor sessions are being held at Littleport Leisure Centre on Friday, December 11 and at Sutton's Royal British Legion Club on Thursday, December 17.

The sessions run from 1-3.15pm and 4.30-7pm. On Tuesday, December 29 sessions are also running at the Ely Beet Club from 10am-12.30pm and 2-4.15pm.

Call 0300 123 2323 or visit blood.co.uk.

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CLW

SLEEPING ROUGH: Canon Alan Hargrave and Canon Vicky Johnson with Percy the dog.
PICTURE: Richard Patterson

Sleep-out to raise funds for homeless

ELY Cathedral is hosting a sleep-out to raise money for people who are homeless.

Canons Alan Hargrave and Vicky Johnson – and Vicky's young Labradoodle, Percy – will be among those taking part on Saturday night.

The sleep-out is being held in the cathedral's Galilee Porch from 9pm on Saturday until 8am on Sunday to raise money for the Church Urban Fund, which works with people who are homeless, isolated or suffering from domestic abuse.

The cathedral team have already raised more than £4,000 but they hope to raise £5,000.

Residents who would like to take part can email a.hargrave@elycathedral.org.

Visit adventsleepout.everydayhero.com/uk/ely-cathedral to donate money to the cause.

POLITICS

'Our government has a duty to protect citizens'

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

BOTH South East Cambridgeshire MP Lucy Frazer and North East Cambridgeshire MP Stephen Barclay voted in favour of taking military action in Syria.

The only local MP who voted against the bombings was Cambridge's Labour MP, Daniel Zeichner.

Mrs Frazer told the *Ely News* the Government had a "duty to protect citizens".

She said: "I voted in favour for a number of reasons. The first, and most critical, is that Daesh poses a direct threat to our peace and security as British citizens. That is undeniable.

"In the last 12 months Britain's police and security services have disrupted seven terrorist plots to attack the UK. And as a Government we have a duty to protect our citizens. Whilst some argue that taking action will have consequences the grim reality is that not taking action will have consequences too.

A DUTY: Lucy Frazer

"Secondly, we cannot contract out this responsibility. When our closest allies are attacked and call for our assistance and when UN Resolution 2249 unanimously calls upon member states to 'take all necessary measures' to prevent terrorist acts we should, with others, take up that international responsibility."

Ian Shields OBE, a lecturer in International Relations at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, says aerial bombing alone is not enough.

Mr Shields, who lives in Ely and is a former Group Captain in the RAF, said: "Aerial bombing alone will not achieve the aim of stabilising the region – it never does and never has.

"Bombing may help in the short to medium-term, but a more joined-up and coherent strategy is required in the longer term and that strategy is yet to emerge.

"Above all, we need cool heads and a serious, long-term engagement to address what is rapidly becoming the leading challenge to peace and stability within the international order today."

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Your Community

GO ONLINE FOR MORE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS
Visit ely-news.co.uk or email Your Community news to jordan.day@cambridge-news.co.uk

Coveney

■ Festival of Father Christmas' at the Methodist Church on Saturday from 1-5pm.

Ely

■ Coffee morning at St Mary's Church today from 9-11am.

■ Lantern Community Primary School carol service at Ely Cathedral today at 10am.

■ 'Welney and Salters Lode: skaters and sluices' is the title of the Fenland History on Friday group's talk at Ely Methodist Church on Friday at 10.30am.

■ North Ely Over 60's group's Christmas lunch at Ely Community Centre on Friday. Call 07542 121908.

■ Shoppers' carol service at Ely Cathedral on Saturday at 11.30am.

■ Pop-up art sale at the Lamb Hotel on Saturday from 10am-4pm.

■ Father Christmas attending Ely Museum on Saturday from 10.30am-3pm and on Sunday from 1-3.30pm. Entry £3 per child.

■ Auction of art, antiques and furniture at Rowley's auction rooms on Saturday at 10am.

■ Fabulously Festive children's Christmas party at The Maltings on Sunday from 11am-1pm. Tickets £8.95 per child. Call (01353) 662633.

■ Advent Taize Service by Candlelight at Ely Cathedral on Sunday at 6.30pm.

■ Carols by Candlelight Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday at 6pm.

■ At the Movies theme of Ely City WI's meeting on Monday, December 14. It is at the Old Dispensary at 7.30pm. There is also a gold Christmas decoration competition. Call (01353) 663787.

■ Advent Compline Service at Ely Cathedral on Tuesday, December 15 at 9pm.

■ King's Ely Junior School Carol Service at Ely Cathedral on Thursday, December 17 at 2.30pm.

■ King's Ely Senior School Carol Service at Ely Cathedral on Friday, December 18 at 11am.

■ Highfield School Christingle Service at Ely Cathedral on Friday, December 18 at 1.15pm.

■ Behind Closed Doors exhibition and Christmas Traditions Trail at Oliver Cromwell House everyday throughout December from 11am-4pm.

Little Downham

■ Victorian Christmas bazaar at St Leonard's Church on Friday from 6-8pm.

Littleport

■ Children's Christmas bingo at Littleport Leisure Centre on Friday from 4.30-6pm. On Saturday there is then a Christmas party night at the centre, starting at 7.30pm. Cost is £20 each, which includes three-course carvery and dancing.

On Sunday there is an indoor car boot sale and craft fair from 9am-1pm. Entry is free and pitches are £7 on the day. Call (01353) 860600

Pymoor

■ Children's tea party at the Cricket and Social Club on Sunday from 3-5pm. Tickets £4. Call (01353) 699445.

HO, HO, HO: The RNIB is running its stamp collection appeal again this Christmas and is urging residents in the Ely area to take part.

Charity wants all your used stamps

YOUR used stamps can raise funds to help support people with sight loss.

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) is calling on residents in the Ely area to save their used stamps and donate them to its annual appeal.

Its appeal last year raised over £24,000 to support people with sight loss.

To find out more, call the charity on 0845 345 0054 or visit rnib.org.uk.

Soham

■ Soham Over 60's Club's annual Christmas lunch and entertainment at the Walter Gidney Pavilion on Saturday from 12.30-5pm. Tickets £7 for members, £16 for visitors. Call (01353) 723491.

■ Soham Village College's Christmas concert at Ely Cathedral on Wednesday, December 16 at 7.30pm. Tickets need to be booked by calling (01353) 660349.

■ An evening of Christmas songs and tales hosted by Soham Museum raised £110 for the Centre 33 charity.

Wicken

■ Christmas Elves workshops for under 5's at Wicken Fen on Wednesday, December 16 from 10.30am-12pm. Tickets £8.50. Call (01353) 720274.

Wilburton

■ Santa Claus, real reindeer and Elsa and Anna from Disney's Frozen at Twentypence Garden Centre on Saturday from 10.30am. Call (01353) 741024.

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FUNDRAISING

Couple's lifetime of art raises over £3k for refugees

OPEN HOUSE: Margot and Derek Andrews' art sale at their home in Ely raised more than £3,500 for the Syrian Refugee Fund of Save the Children.

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

TWO artists from Ely have raised more than £3,000 for children affected by the Syrian refugee crisis.

Margot and Derek Andrews decided to open their home in Douglas Court to the public over one weekend last month and to sell a lifetime's work in aid of the Syrian Refugee Fund of Save the Children.

They sold everything from pottery to paintings and the profits, alongside many donations, totalled over £3,500.

Mr Andrews said: "Over £3,500 was donated and in return many of our paintings, drawings and a few pots found new homes, to be enjoyed rather than hidden away in our folders or boxes.

"We thank all those friends who came to make such a worthwhile contribution.

"We also thank all those friends and neighbours who helped, from Daisy, 8, and Lily, 10, who made the visitors feel at home, offering biscuits and sticker badges, to Margot's cousin from New Zealand and his wife who were there with a helping hand or a cup of tea for us, since we were busy with visitors all the time we were open.

"More of our neighbours kept the money in order and looked after the wrapping. Without those helpers we would have had chaos.

"It was interesting that we met people doing other things to help the refugees.

"One is working to encourage councils and other bodies to prepare to look after refugees that make it to our area.

"Another, a medical professional, goes to the camps at Calais to take supplies and at the same time undertakes urgent treatment for the injured.

"Rays of light in an otherwise dark scene."

The couple, who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, taught art for 20 years in schools across the country before setting up a pottery by the river at Prickwillow in 1976, which they ran until 1996.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Puritan Christmas bash

A CHRISTMAS event with a twist is being held at Ely's Oliver Cromwell House.

The Puritan Christmas Party on Saturday, December 19 will be offering people a glimpse at what Puritans got up to at this time of the year and enable visitors to see how families celebrated behind closed doors.

The event, which will include guided tours, music, poetry and refreshments, starts at 2pm and tickets are £10.

Call (01353) 662062.

Information sought about seized vehicle

A VEHICLE has been seized following a suspected hare coursing incident near Littleport.

The Jeep Grand Cherokee is registered to Sittingbourne in Kent and has been seized by East Cambs police, who are now keen to find out more about its occupants.

The hare coursing incident happened at 10am last Tuesday. Call 101 with any information.

RECYCLING

Recycling rise is 'astonishing'

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

EAST Cambridgeshire District Council is now among the top 30 authorities when it comes to recycling.

Since the introduction of wheelie bins in the Ely area in 2013, the district's recycling percentage has increased from 33.4 per cent (2012/13) to 56.6 per cent (2014/15).

Of 320 councils responsible for waste collections in England, the authority has moved from 257th to 26th position in the recycling league table.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) announced the recycling performance for English councils during 2014/15 last week, and for the second year running East Cambridgeshire was the third most improved area with an increase of 11.2 per cent from 2013/14.

Julia Huffer, the council's waste and recycling champion, said: "The improvement in our recycling rates since the introduction of our wheeled bin recycling service in 2013 has been nothing short of astonishing.

"From a low recycling rate we are now pushing towards our target of 60 per cent.

"To put that into context, we have recycled over 8,500 more tonnes of waste than we did in 2013 – this is the equivalent of diverting nearly 700 full collection lorry loads from landfill to recycling."

Mrs Huffer said: "We must say a huge thank you to our residents who have embraced the wheelie bins service.

"However we know we cannot be complacent and will continue to promote and encourage people to recycle more through ideas such as our monthly prize draw initiative – 'It pays to recycle in East Cambridgeshire' - which has so far awarded over £5,000 in prizes to residents for using their blue recycling bins."

The wheeled bin recycling service involves:

- A blue lidded wheeled bin recycling collection, including paper, glass, food and drinks cans, plastic bottles and hard plastic food containers, cartons and cardboard. This is collected fortnightly.
- A green lidded wheeled bin collection for garden and food waste. This is collected fortnightly.
- Refuse in black sacks continue to be collected weekly.

Visit eastcambs.gov.uk/waste or call (01353) 665555 to find out more.

HAVE YOUR SAY
ely-news.co.uk
or email: jordan.day@cambridge-news.co.uk

Emily spreads festive cheer

SOHAM woman Emily Keates will be spreading a little Christmas cheer in London on Sunday. Emily, 25, is making 'blessing bags' which she will hand out to homeless people in the capital. Emily said: "I'm going to walk around London, chat to as many homeless people as I can and give them a blessing bag.

"There will be things like toothpaste, gloves and sweets inside but I'm also going to write cards with a message of motivation to show they are important, kind and smart.

"Giving is so much better than receiving and I'd encourage others to do something like this at Christmas."

BLESSINGS: Emily pictured at home in Soham with her pet pig, Fella.

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THE WOOD GREEN CHRISTMAS FAIR

The festive season's in full flood especially at our Christmas Fair at Wood Green. Browse, sample and buy from a wonderful range of arts, crafts and gift stalls where you've a cracking chance to find whatever you're looking for including jewellery and other artisan accessories, handmade cards and decorations, handicrafts photography, aromatherapy products, candles, ceramics and pottery, wood turning designs and so much more ... real foods and drinks including wines, beers, cordials, meats, cheeses, pastries as well as chocolates and many other seasonal and Christmas confections to help complete your festive board.

THIS WEEKEND!

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 Dec

at Wood Green Godmanchester Centre

London Road nr. Godmanchester
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open between 10am - 4pm

admission: £2.50 concession: £2 child 16 years and younger FREE

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JOB DONE

WINTER TRADE DEALS

PLUMBASE

ELECTRICBASE

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01353 663711
Open: 7am – 5pm Weekdays | 8 am – 12 noon Saturdays

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Haddenham Pantomime 2016

Arkenstall Village Centre, Haddenham

Registered charity no. 300394

Tickets

Thursday 7th January, 7:30pm - £5.50 (on the door only)

Friday 8th January, 7:30pm
Saturday 9th January, 2:30pm
Saturday 9th January, 7:30pm
} adults - £7.50 / concessions - £6.50 / children - £6.50

On sale at the
Arkenstall Centre, Saturday 5th December 10:00-11:30am
and then from
Haddenham Galleries, 01353 749188

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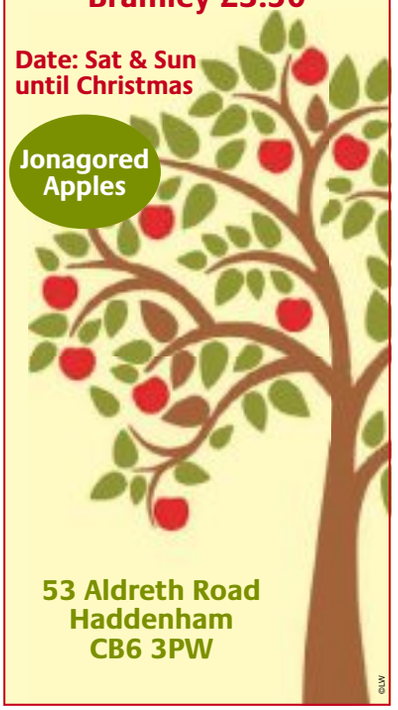
DIG YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE

£3 per foot

12lb box of Cox apples as a present £4.50

Bramley £3.50

Date: Sat & Sun until Christmas



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ADEC

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Online Sales: www.adec.org.uk | Box Office: 01353 616991

Thursday 10 December: 3pm
SPECTRE (12A)

Thursday 10 December: 7.30pm
The Lady in the Van (12A) SOLD OUT
Additional screenings on 18 & 21 Jan

Wednesday 16 December: 7.30pm
SPECTRE (12A)

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I LOVE CHRISTMAS BOOKS

SO many books, so little time - but if you give a book this Christmas, you can be guaranteed your loved ones will settle themselves down for at least an hour or two to escape the festivities and relax with a good read. Here are just a few of the books which may fit the bill...

FOOD AND DRINK

The Oxford Companion To Wine, edited by Jancis Robinson and Julia Harding (Oxford University Press, £40): This giant tome is a must for wine aficionados, combining meticulously-researched fact with refreshing opinion and wit. It's the fourth edition, completely revised since its 2006 predecessor, presenting almost 4,000 entries on every wine-related topic imaginable, from regions and grape varieties to the owners, connoisseurs, growers, trends and tasters.

A Year Of Good Eating: The Kitchen Diaries III by Nigel Slater (Fourth Estate, £30): Mouthwatering dishes abound in the third instalment of this impressive almanac, featuring such delicious offerings as chicken, haricot beans and lemon, quick fish chowder or simple fare like baked eggs with tomatoes. There are more than 250 recipes, moments and ideas for good eating, with seasonal sections for quick, weeknight eats. It'll keep the taste buds tingling well into the New Year.

TRAVEL

The Road To Little Dribbling: More Notes From A Small Island by Bill Bryson (Doubleday, £20): This amiable author guides us gently and humorously around his adopted country, some 20 years after his first trip around Britain led to his first bestseller. Travelling from Bognor Regis to Cape Wrath, through places that many never get to at all, Bryson rediscovers the beautiful, eccentric and endearingly unique county. Uplifting and funny, it's perfect during an hour or two of peace and quiet.

HISTORY

The Telegraph History Of The World, Edited by Gavin Fuller (Aurum Press, £20): If you want to know how the news has hit the headlines in the last 160 years, this fascinating book holds the answers. The paper sent Stanley to Africa; 22-year-old Churchill wrote from the North-West frontier for £5 a column, and Kipling from the front in the First World War. As well as wars, banking crises, terrorist attacks and elections, reporters of the day covered royal births and weddings, plus political scandal. Edited by the head of the Telegraph library, it's perfect for recalling news events for relatives, long after the Queen's Speech.

ROMANCE

Snowed In For Christmas by Claire Sandy (Pan, £7.99): A feel-good festive story about a woman who fled her village years ago, to return for Yuletide in Ireland with her eccentric family and her long-kept secret - a 16-year-old daughter keen to meet her relatives. And there's romance in the air when she meets a man in the snow.

The Inn Britain group are proud to be opening at **The High Flyer** on the 25th of November after a major refurbishment. We're looking forward to serving Ely.

Spend your Christmas with us!

Christmas Day

5 courses banquet
Adults £59.95 Children £34.95
5 course banquet featuring our award winning Christmas carvery

Festive Menu

Book for parties from 4 to 200 featuring our award winning Christmas carvery
2 courses - £14.50
3 courses - £17.50

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advertorial

Luxurious surroundings, indulgent treatments and expert therapists.

Having been in business for over nine years, Spa ely is a wonderful oasis of calm and a true gem to find right on your doorstep.

The hugely popular and beautiful spa has provided a range of luxurious and indulgent treatments to an impressive 80,000 clients so far and this Christmas it's looking forward to welcoming you through the doors for a festive treat.

"It's a wonderful place to come and spoil yourself," says salon owner Caroline Bailey.

MEET THE TEAM:
L to R Caroline Bailey (owner), Holly Douglas (senior therapist), Chloe Emery (senior therapist), Leanne Rickard (senior therapist), and Caroline Arkless (manager)

Not only is the Spa one of the top salons in the eastern region for the exclusive beauty brand Elemis but also stocks a wide range of bath and body products from the luxurious brands Ortigia, Tokyo Milk and Noble Isle. "It's so easy to do all your Christmas shopping online or in the big department stores," says Caroline, "But it's lovely if people are able to support their independent, local retailers and come and visit the spa to choose products themselves."

All gifts purchased this Christmas will be beautifully gift wrapped for you and do not miss Spa ely's amazing Christmas offer where if you purchase £100 worth of any retail products you will receive a £35 Elemis gift pack absolutely free.

If you simply cannot choose a product, you can always buy a gift voucher for one of our amazing treatments. It is a luxurious and indulgent way to treat yourself or a loved one this Christmas, whether it is in the beautiful four-seater steam room, or experiencing a fantastic treatment on one of our renowned heated couches!

Spa ely consistently exceeds client expectations with very happy customers providing high praise for the spa, one saying, "I had the best experience ever. It's relaxing, friendly and most of all I feel amazing", while others love the massage service saying, "I can honestly say the quality and skill of the masseuse was exceptional, as is the environment."

Spa ely has the additional advantage of being wonderfully close to home. There's no need to travel for a personal shopping experience, our stress-free environment and experienced Team are here to help you purchase from our beautiful wide range of products or vouchers for treatments.

Purchase £100 worth of any retail products you will receive a £35 Elemis gift pack absolutely FREE!

Spa ely

35 Forehill, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4AA. **Tel: (01353) 664662** or visit spa-ely.co.uk

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Alcatel Pixi 8	24 months	£0	£4	£96	£96	0%	0%	£99.99	£5	£5 + RPI% announced in Feb 2016 = Price A	Price A + RPI% announced in Feb 2017

Each year O2 Refresh Airtime Plans will be adjusted on your April bill by the Retail Price Index (RPI) rate of inflation announced in the preceding February. See o2.co.uk/prices for more info. Includes 24 month Airtime Plan on our Pay Monthly Mobile Agreement and options to take a device by paying cash price upfront or through a Device Plan on a consumer credit agreement. Subject to status, credit check and Direct Debit. Applicants 18+. Subject to availability. UK data only. Credit provided by Telefónica UK Limited (trading as "o2"), 260 Bath Road, Slough, Berks SL1 4DX. In relation to consumer credit Telefónica UK Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. In relation to consumer credit JAR Communications Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Terms apply, visit o2.co.uk/terms. Existing customers get 50% more data per month [for the duration of your 24 Month Pay Monthly Agreement]. UK Data only.

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Up to 20% off
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We have four qualified riding hat and body protector fitters on site

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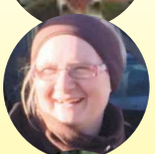
Pro Plan Dog & Cat Food Pick up your Collect & Save card to buy 5 and get 1 Free

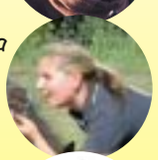
Meet the Team

Alan

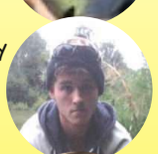
Katie



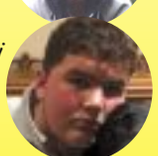
Gemma



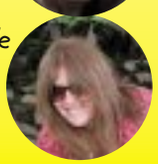
Brad



Kai



Michelle



*All while Stocks Last

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Visit: www.alansarkcambridgeshire.co.uk

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iLOVE LETTER TO SANTA

As Christmas approaches the Royal Mail is reminding children they can write to Santa at the North Pole.

Workers at the Royal Mail are delivering thousands of children's letters to Father Christmas as they do every year.

Letters should be sent before December 6 to reach him in time.

One heart-warming letter sent last year from Scarlett from Manchester asked for her presents to be sent to children in hospital.

She wrote: "Dear Mr Santa, I would like my presents to go to a children's ward."

Chief Elf Alex McConnell said:"Royal Mail plays a special part at Christmas. We are proud that for over 50 years Santa has allowed us to help manage the thousands and thousands of special letters he receives from boys and girls across the UK.

"His special team of elves at Royal Mail enjoy taking a peek at what children are asking for, and helping Santa reply to these special letters. Remember to include your full name and address on your letter so Santa can reply to you!"

To ensure Santa receives the letter on time, make sure you write to him using the correct address on a stamped envelope. Santa/Father Christmas, Santa's Grotto, Reindeerland, XM4 5HQ

Festive stamps

SCENES from the traditional nativity story are depicted on this year's Christmas stamps.

Royal Mail said the six stamps feature scenes from the Biblical story of the nativity from the Annunciation and the birth of Christ.

The stamps were illustrated by London-born artist David Holmes.

Andrew Hammond, of the Royal Mail, said: "Christmas is a stamp issue we particularly look forward to. The charming style of these designs sets the perfect tone for the festive season."

Recommended posting dates this year are **December 19 for second-class mail**, **December 21 for first-class** and **December 23** for special delivery. There will be no deliveries from **Christmas Day** until **December 29**, as Monday December 28 is a bank holiday.

Christmas Trees

NORDIC NON DROP
5ft, 6ft, 7ft £29.99
HOLLY WREATHS
£5
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Ready now or orders taken

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ELY MARKETS at CHRISTMAS

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MARKET
WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER
8.30AM - 3.30PM
Ely Market Place

CHRISTMAS EVE THURSDAY GENERAL MARKET
8.30am - 3.30pm

Browse your favourite stalls from our
General Market * Farmers' Market
*** Craft & Collectables Market ***
*** Seasonal food & gift stalls ***
*** Musical entertainment ***

Craft & Collectables - every Saturday (except Boxing Day)
Farmers' Market - Saturday 12, 23 Dec and 9, 23 Jan
General Market - every Thursday and Sunday

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FOCUS ON

Sedgeway Business Park

(off A142), Witchford, Ely, CB6 2HY

Find inspiration at Ely Tile Centre

ADVERTISING FEATURE

WELL WORTH A VISIT: Ely Tile Centre is based at Witchford's Sedgeway Business Park. The extensive range even includes brushed aluminium floor tiles!

ELY TILE CENTRE has the largest and widest choice of tiles in the local area and 90 per cent of the ranges are exclusive to the shop. New tiling can really give your decor a lift so if you are looking for that 'certain something' to revive your home's interior spaces, then it's a great idea to take a trip out to Sedgeway Business Park, and head for Ely Tile Centre for inspiration and more.

To refresh a tired-looking wall, replace a worn-down floor with something both durable and eye-catching, or just give any room in your house a stylish new look, tiling is the clever choice, with its combination of great visual appeal, fashionability, durability and practicality.

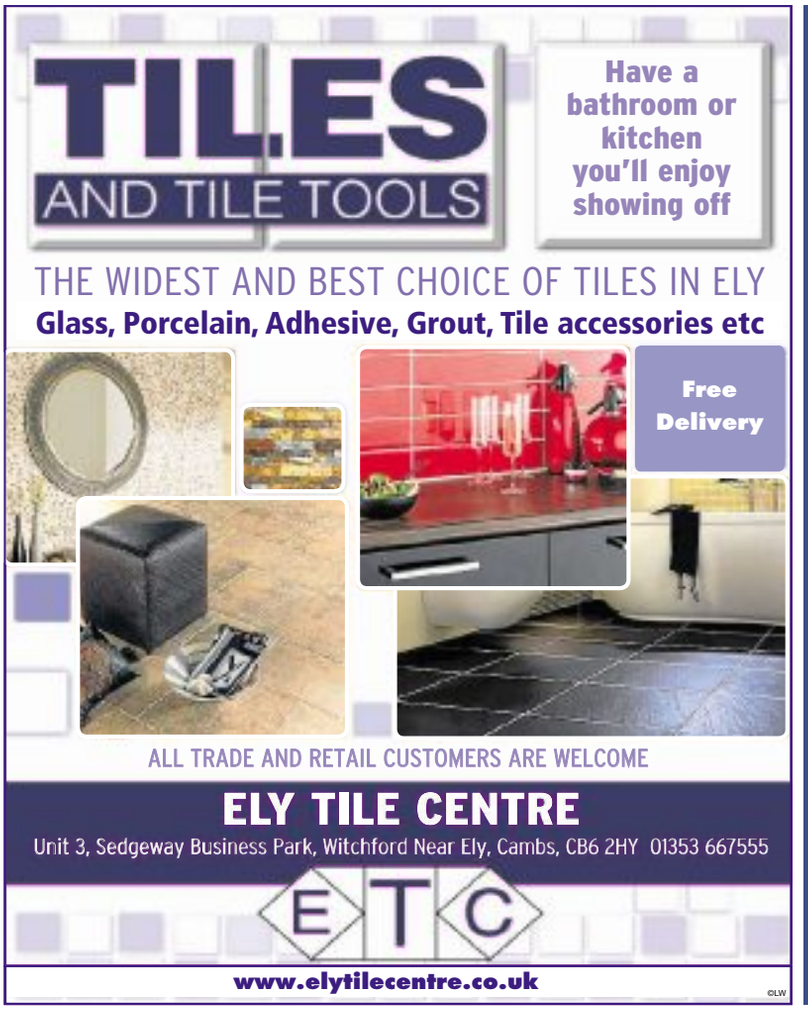
Call in for a first look at the new room setting, tiled in gloss grey with plain and decorated tiles, all one price. Plus there's a new range of wall and floor tiles available in a stone effect or wood plank effect and a new range of small rectangle gloss wall tiles suitable for a kitchen or shower.

Conveniently located in Witchford's Sedgeway Business Park, Ely Tile Centre is run by David Craig, who has more than 20 years of experience in the trade.

Popular tiling at the centre includes a fabulous range of Studio 54 mosaics, some glossy stone-effect wall tiles in neutral colours like beige and cream, and a new wood-effect parquet flooring range. Along with some very 'now' rustic stone-style floor tiles are the equally fashionable mosaics in a range of vibrant colours from dark reds to lilacs, greens, beiges and blues – they are even available in brushed aluminium.

All this, with David's expertise and a new range of must-have tile and stone cleaning products, makes Ely Tile Centre the must-visit destination for everyone looking to renovate their home this winter plus there is 10 per cent off of all tiles ordered and delivered before Christmas (with no need to purchase adhesive or labour to qualify for this discount).

Ely Tile Centre is open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30pm, and on Saturdays from 9am to 4pm. Find the showroom at Unit 3, Sedgeway Business Park, Common Road, Witchford, or phone the team on (01353) 667555.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Christmas party

A CHILDREN'S Christmas party is being held in Ely this Sunday.

The event at The Maltings has been organised by the venue and Burrows Bookshop. Running from 11am-1pm, there will be festive stories, games, crafts, fancy dress, face painting, goody bags and a visit from Santa.

Tickets are £8.95 per child.

Call (01353) 662633 or visit themaltings.ely.org.uk for tickets.

Get closer to hares at WWT Welney centre

GUIDED hare walks are running at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in Welney every Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

They are at 2pm and are free. Places need to be booked by calling (01353) 860711.

Demolition proposals

A PROPERTY in Ely could be knocked down to make way for a new home.

Mr and Mrs Dawson have applied to East Cambridgeshire District Council for planning permission to demolish number 47, Springhead Lane.

In its place they want to build a new four-bedroom home complete with garaging and parking.

To view the plans or to have your say, visit eastcambs.gov.uk.

COMMUNITY

Scouts on hand to deliver festive mail

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

ELY District Scouts' Christmas Post service is back – and residents across the district are being urged to support it.

The Christmas Post for Scouts scheme is run in cities and towns across the UK each year and came to East Cambridgeshire for the first time three years ago.

Instead of buying Royal Mail stamps, residents are able to purchase cheaper Scouts stamps for 25p, and ask the local Scouts to deliver their Christmas cards instead of Royal Mail.

Of the 25p raised from the purchase of each stamp, 20p usually goes to the Scouts and 5p goes to local charities.

Chris Beale, commissioner the Ely District Scouts, said: "This hugely popular service allows people to send Christmas cards to Ely, Stretham, Littleport, Witchford, Witcham, Haddenham, Little Downham, Wilburton, Sutton and Little Thetford over the coming weeks for only 25p each.

"Under the Telecommunications Act 1981, charitable organisations such as the Scout Association are allowed to collect mail for a fee and deliver it between the dates of November 25 and January 1.

"The only limitation to the service is that only cards and letters conveying Christmas or New Year greetings may be delivered using the service."

Every year, the Scouts are given the chance to design a stamp and the best designs are chosen to be printed. This year there was a prize for the overall best stamp and this was won by Isaac Greaves from 1st Stretham Scouts.

WINNING DESIGN: Isaac Greaves, from 1st Stretham Scouts, won this year's stamp design competition.

Chris said: "Ely District Scouts have been growing in numbers over the last year and we are looking at opening new sections to enable us to bring Scouting to as many people across the area as possible.

"To do this we are always looking for volunteers to help, either working directly with the young people, or in support roles to help 6 to 18 year olds get the most out of their Scouting adventure."

Visit elydistrictscouts.co.uk.

Shops are supporting the Scouts

YOU can purchase your Scout stamps and post your mail in the following shops:

- **Ely: Roly's Fudge Pantry, Market Place; Eel Catcher's Daughter, High Street; Cutlacks, Forehill; Scope, High Street; One-Stop, St John's Road; Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe, High Street; GrapeTree, Market Street.**
- **Littleport: Holmes Furnishers, Sigma Embroidery, The Barn – all in Main Street.**
- **Sutton: Deli @ 65, High Street; Squirrel Cottage Farm Shop and Pet Supplies, The America; S and G Car Repairs, Ely Road; Sidney Miller Hair Salon and Bar, The Brook.**
- **Stretham: Red Lion Pub, High Street.**
- **Little Downham: Uppercutz Hair and Beauty Salon, Main Street**
- **Haddenham: The Gallery, High Street**

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£2,000 up for grabs

LOCAL firm Isle of Ely Produce has raised £2,000 that it wants to share among local charities.

The business, based in Littleport, has joined forces with the Mayor of Ely, Cllr Lis Every, to help give it away.

The money was raised at the company's potato race, which was held in Ely in October.

Hundreds of people cheered on the teams as they sprinted the half-mile course laden with a 20kg bag of locally-grown spuds.

As reported, the two-man Atrium team of Pavel Kolasa and Anthony Barnes were crowned the champions. They ran on behalf of Fred Hartley Estates.

Cllr Every said: "I was honoured to be the official starter for the Ely Potato Race and saw first hand what a great race it has become.

"To raise over £2,000 too for local charities and groups is the icing on the cake. I urge you all to come forward no matter how small."

To be in with a chance of receiving a share of the cash, e-mail austen@isleofely.co.uk or call the firm on (01353) 863355 explaining why your charity or community group should receive some funds.

The closing date for nominations is Friday, December 31.

The nominations will be considered by Cllr Every, representatives from Fred Hartley and Sons and the directors of Isle of Ely Produce.

CASH: Isle of Ely Produce has joined forces with Ely's Mayor, centre, to decide which local charities should get the share of the £2,000 raised.

FIRM MOVES: From left: Val Lloyd, Danielle Smith, Lis Every and David Bryan.

Firm re-locates to Broad Street

ELY'S Mayor was on hand to help a business formally open its new offices.

Val Lloyd and David Bryan, who run Ely Tax and Accountancy, have moved their business to Broad Street.

Cllr Lis Every was among guests who attended an opening ceremony, which was also celebrating the firm's third birthday – and the fact that Danielle Smith has joined as an apprentice.

David said: "Our office is much better for visitors now. Our more spacious facilities include a meeting room for clients and ample office space."

Val was Danielle's mentor at Ely College. Danielle started working for the company part-time before being asked to join as an apprentice.

Val said "We are delighted with how Danielle has settled in. She is already making a significant contribution."

Support smaller firms

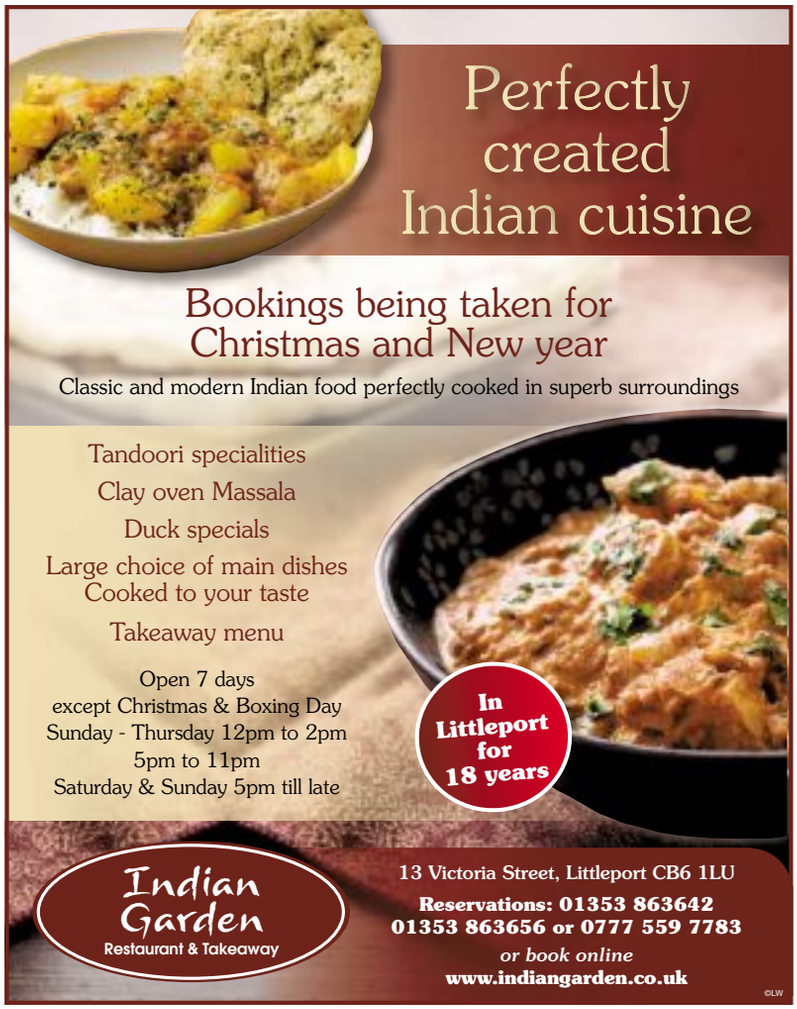
SUPPORT independent businesses in the Ely area this Christmas – and beyond.

That's the message from the County Land and Business Association (CLA) following Small Business Saturday.

CLA East Regional Director Ben Underwood said: "Small Business Saturday echoes the CLA's desire for people to support the rural economy.

"Small, independent businesses should be supported all year around, not just at Christmas. Every pound spent in smaller independent local food outlets supports three times the number of jobs than if it were spent in national grocery chains."

The national campaign saw representatives from the Federation of Small Businesses and local MP Lucy Frazer visiting four Ely-based businesses on December 5 – Ely Computers, Ely Aquatics Centre, The Atrium Club and Italian Jewellery Ltd.



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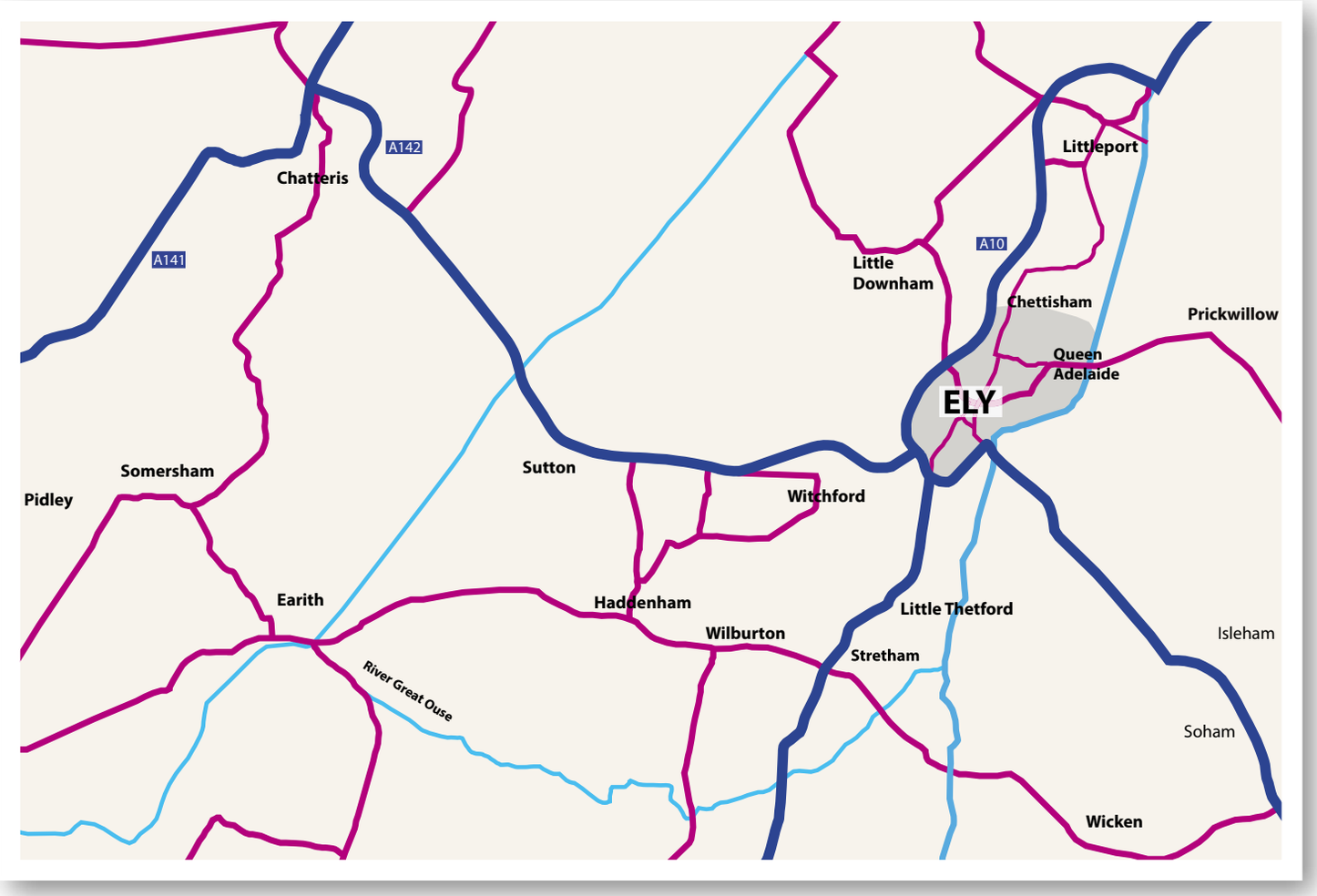

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LITTLEPORT £315,000

- Modern and detached
- Small development
- Immaculately presented
- 4 bedrooms
- En-suite to master
- Kitchen b'fast & utility
- Lounge & dining room
- Open views to rear
- EPC Rating tbc

LITTLEPORT £299,950

- Much improved detached house
- Non estate location
- 3 Reception rooms
- Conservatory
- 3 bedrooms
- Attractive fitted kitchen
- Garage and parking
- EPC Rating E

STUNTNEY

- Individual detached home
- One of three in popular village
- 4 bedrooms
- En-suite & dressing room to master
- Kitchen and dining area
- Lounge ans study
- Double garage and parking
- EPC Rating C

WILBURTON O.I.R.O. £460,000

- Detached family home
- Popular village location
- 3 Reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen/b'fast room
- 4 double bedrooms
- En-suite and family b/room
- Detached double garage
- EPC Rating D

LITTLEPORT

- Established detached bungalow
- 3 double bedrooms
- Bath and shower rooms
- Lounge and dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Secluded rear garde
- Ample Parking
- EPC Rating D

ELY

- Modern terraced home
- Ideal location
- Kitchen/diner
- Lounge
- 2 double bedrooms
- Garage and garden
- EPC Rating D

ELY

- Older style terrace
- Located close to station & riverside
- 2 reception rooms
- Kitchen
- Downstairs bathroom
- 2 bedrooms
- Dressing room/3rd bedroom
- EPC rating D

LITTLEPORT

- Spacious family townhouse
- Large kitchen/diner
- First floor lounge with balcony
- 4 double bedrooms
- 2 en-suites & family bathroom
- Utility and study
- Carport & attractive rear garden
- EPC C

WILBURTON £499,950

- Double front detached home
- Small cul-de-sac location
- 4 bedrooms
- 2 en-suites
- Well fitted kitchen & utility
- 3 reception rooms
- Garage and parking
- EPC Rating C

HADDENHAM £475,000

- Individual & detached
- Non estate location
- Kkitchen/dining room
- Lounge & study
- 3 first floor bedrooms
- 2nd/fl bedroom & en-suite
- Split level garden
- EPC Rating B

ELY

- 1930's semi
- Centrally located
- Fitted kitchen
- Lounge & dining room
- 3 bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Established gardens
- EPC Rating G

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Cover property

Wilburton: £460,000

THIS detached four bedroom family home in Clarkes Lane, Wilburton, is on the market for offers in the region of £460,000. It has accommodation including an entrance hall, a downstairs cloakroom, a living room, a dining room, a study, a kitchen/breakfast room and a utility room. Upstairs the master bedroom comes with en suite, and there are three more bedrooms and a family bathroom.
There is a rear garden with patio and a double garage.
For further information contact David Clark & Company on (01353) 665020.

Property news

Staging helps sell for more

Clare Feenan, a certified home staging and styling professional in Cambridgeshire writes...

HOME staging is the act of preparing a house for sale so that it appeals to the greatest number of potential buyers and therefore attracts the highest sale price and sells in the least amount of time. If you are getting viewers through the door but not receiving any offers my suggestion would be to take your property off the market, stage it and then re-launch it – you should also be able to revise the sale price at that point depending on the value added to the property as a result of the staging process.

The task of the home staging expert is to make your house into an aspirational home by improving the best qualities and, especially when the staging budget is a consideration, prioritise the rooms that are likely to impress. Before agreeing a budget for staging a house it is essential to consider the local property market, the current value of the property and the potential added benefit versus the costs the seller will incur.

The stylist will visit your house for about two hours during which time they will listen to your concerns and requirements in terms of timeline and budget, and assess its space, light, style, cleanliness, tidiness, general appearance and allure. They will then be able to advise and discuss with you how you could improve the warmth and balance of the house and increase the kerb appeal to ensure that potential buyers viewing the property can visualise themselves and their family living there.

You will be presented with numerous options, some of which may be as simple as a de-clutter of sentimental items in favour of a few more on trend accessories, repainting the front door and tidying the front garden, or may involve some minor building work to improve the layout and flow of the building. As you will be packing up all of your belongings once your house is sold, they may also suggest storing some of your personal possessions to create space in cupboards and wardrobes or perhaps replacing a few items of furniture with rented or High Street pieces which you can take to your new home to improve the overall feel of the house. The stylist will then take on the full project management to include scheduling the project, contracting and managing any contractors, and sourcing and purchasing items of furniture or fittings, however for some clients a written report is all they need to get them started on styling their house themselves.

Once the project is complete and your home has a new lease of life it is crucial to convey it to your potential buyers. Of course the property details and therefore the photos do a lot of the talking, especially at this time of year. Adding a few cost effective additional festive touches will warm the atmosphere and uplift the mood of the house thus making it even more appealing and aspirational. You cannot underestimate the value of creating an inviting ambience with seasonal scents and festive arrangements.

Of course all of these tips and pointers can be applied if you are staying put. A property stylist can also help to organize a bit of a de-clutter, tidy and refresh or assist you if you are moving into a new house by looking for fabrics and furniture and helping narrow down the right ideas for your new home.

Contact Clare on 07768 412399 or *clare@clarefeenan.com* for a no-obligation chat, or find out more by visiting *clarefeenan.com*.

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Littleport £197,500

A well presented modern semi detached house situated in a popular cul de sac location. Accommodation comprises entrance hallway, lounge, open plan kitchen/ dining room, conservatory, 3 bedrooms (1 ensuite) and bathroom, together with a spacious driveway and single garage/office. EPR TBC.

Littleport £250,000

An established detached family home situated in a central location within walking distance of amenities and train line with spacious accommodation. Entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/dining room, utility room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, single garage, driveway, front and rear gardens. The property benefits from gas central heating, double glazing. No upward chain. EPR TBC.

Ely £145,000

A modern ground floor apartment situated on a popular modern development. Accommodation comprises entrance hallway, kitchen, lounge/dining room, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property also has allocated parking and double glazing. Offered for sale with no upward chain. EPR C.

Littleport £210,000

A deceptively spacious semi detached bungalow situated in the centre of this popular Town, within walking distance of amenities. Accommodation comprises entrance hallway, kitchen, dining room, lounge, conservatory, 2 double bedrooms, separate shower room and bathroom, together with an attractive rear garden, double garage and driveway. EPR TBC.

Sutton £255,000

A detached bungalow in a highly regarded location, comprehensively refurbished by the current owners. Entrance hall, spacious lounge/dining room, refitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, refitted bathroom, private gardens, driveway and double garage. Also gas central heating with modern boiler & replaced upvc double glazing. No upward chain. EPR D.

Soham £279,950

A charming and extended detached cottage situated on the edge of Soham close to Qua Fen Common and offering spacious accommodation comprising study / family room, hallway, utility, lounge, kitchen / dining room, ground floor bathroom and 3 double bedrooms (master with ensuite), attractive well maintained gardens and an extensive driveway. EPR D.

Littleport £299,950

An immaculately presented spacious detached home within a popular development close to a primary school. Feature entrance hall and galleried landing, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, lounge, dining room, study, 4 bedrooms (1 ensuite), family bathroom, enclosed garden, driveway and double garage. EPR B.

Soham £179,950

An established semi detached home situated at the end of a cul de sac and offered for sale with no upward chain. Comprises entrance porch, hall, spacious lounge, kitchen/dining room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, front and rear gardens, parking and garage on block. EPR TBC.

Ely £229,950

A spacious modern semi-detached house (circa early 2000's) on an established modern city development. Entrance hallway, cloakroom, sitting room, dining area, kitchen, utility room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, single garage, parking and driveway. The property also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. EPR C.

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Soham £625 pcm

Terraced two bedroom cottage close to the town centre. Includes outside storage and enclosed garden. EPC: D

Ely £900 pcm

Modern three bedroom (1 en-suite) house. The property has a garden, garage and off road parking. EPC: C

Little Thetford £1,000 pcm

Detached three bedroom bungalow. Enclosed rear garden and garage, gardener included. EPC: TBC

Stretham £1,050 pcm

Beautifully presented three bedroom detached house. Enclosed garden and off road parking. EPC: D

Ely

Detached two bedroom coach house style apartment. Small garden area, garage and parking. EPC: C

Ely

Modern two bedroom terraced house. The property has off road parking and garden. EPC: B

Littleport

Semi detached three bedroom house. Accommodation comprises single garage and driveway. EPC: D

Ely

Spacious four bedroom (two en-suites) detached modern house close to the centre. EPC: C

*Letting fees apply. See Cheffins.co.uk for full details.

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WITCHAM

An established extended detached family home offering spacious accommodation located in a non estate position on a delightful plot.

5 bedrooms, master with en-suite, family bathroom, reception hall, study/family room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility, cloakroom, oil central heating, double glazed, gardens and off street parking. EPC rating: E

£399,950

SOLD STC

SUTTON

An immaculately presented and updated period home offering spacious accommodation and lovely mature good sized gardens providing an excellent family home.

4 bedrooms, guest bedroom with en-suite, four piece family bathroom, entrance hall, three reception rooms, cloakroom, kitchen/dining room, gardens, garage, home office/playroom, outhouse and WC, off street parking and no chain. EPC rating: D

£375,000

SOHAM

£389,950

A modern four bedroom detached family home, located in the centre of the village on the bank of the brook.

4 bedrooms, bedroom one with en suite and dressing area, family bathroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, study, entrance hall, double garage, rear and side gardens. EPC rating: D

SUTTON

£375,000

A well presented individually built four bedroom detached family home with generous gardens located in a non estate position within a quiet lane.

4 bedrooms, master with en-suite, family bathroom, landing, reception hall, cloakroom, study, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, gardens, driveway, double garage, UPVC double glazed and oil central heating. EPC rating: E

NEW

LITTLEPORT

£350,000

An immaculately presented and updated detached family home offering good sized accommodation throughout located in a non estate position with private plot.

3 generous bedrooms, master and bedroom 2 with en-suite shower rooms, bedroom 3 with additional dressing room/study, family bathroom, landing, reception hall, sitting room, conservatory, dining room, kitchen, utility, cloakroom, garage, gardens and off street parking. EPC rating: C

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WITCHAM — £350,000

An extended detached family home with accommodation over two floors offering flexible family living with delightful secluded plot, situated in a sought after non estate location.

4 bedrooms, reception hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, study, family bathroom, separate cloakroom, kitchen, utility room, gas fueled heating, double glazing, double garage, ample off road parking and gardens. EPC rating: D

SUTTON — £260,000

A three/four bedroom detached family home located in a non estate position within a quiet lane with good sized plot in need of general updating.

3 bedrooms, family bathroom, landing, entrance hall, cloakroom, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, family room/bedroom 4, garage, gardens, off street parking, double glazed and oil central heating. EPC rating: E

EARITH — £350,000

A brand new 4 bedroom detached house forming part of this exciting small development of only three properties, situated in the heart of the village.

Entrance hall, living/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, 2 double bedrooms to ground floor, family bathroom, 2 further double bedrooms with en-suite bath/shower rooms, gas fired central heating, double glazed windows and doors, NHBC warranty, enclosed rear garden, off-street parking for two cars.

ELY — £255,000

A two bedroom terraced home, with garden and allocated parking in a highly sought after city centre location.

2 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, lounge/dining room, rear garden and allocated parking. EPC rating: C

EARITH — £250,000

A brand new 2 bedroom detached house currently under construction and forming part of this exciting small development of only three properties, situated in the heart of the village.

Living room, dining room, kitchen with integrated appliances, cloakroom with WC, first floor landing, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, gas fired central heating, double glazed windows, NHBC warranty, enclosed rear garden.

SOHAM — £112,500

A well presented one bedroom ground floor flat with allocated parking and private garden.

Bedroom, bathroom, lounge, kitchen, rear hall, front and rear gardens, allocated parking and gas central heating. EPC rating: D

LITTLEPORT — £219,950

A modern end off terrace four bedroom town house with garden, garage and off street parking on a popular development.

4 bedrooms, bedroom one en-suite and dressing room, bathroom, kitchen/dining room, lounge, entrance hall, cloakroom, rear garden, garage and off street parking. EPC rating: B

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HADDENHAM £500 pcm

A static park home is located on the edge of the park with views over countryside. Kitchen/diner with white goods & free standing gas cooker, Lounge, Bathroom with separate shower, Bedroom 1 with wardrobes, Bedroom 2 with wardrobes. Garden area to all sides of property with patio area at the rear. Age restriction on site over 50's only.

WITCHFORD £750 pcm

A semi detached 2 double bedroom bungalow. Kitchen, Lounge 11'8 x 16'7. Bedroom 1- 13'5 x 11'8 with built-in wardrobe. Bedroom 2 with French doors leading out to rear garden. Bathroom with shower cubicle. Enclosed rear garden. Single garage with power & driveway. EPC Awaited.

ELY £995 pcm

Modern 3 bedroom detached house in a good condition. Accommodation comprises of Kitchen/Diner with patio doors to garden, Sitting room with fireplace, a downstairs cloakroom, upstairs has 3 bedrooms, a family bathroom, the main bedroom with en-suite shower room. Garden and Garage with parking. EPC band C (70)

RAMSEY ST MARY £690 pcm

A three bedroom semi-detached house. Fitted kitchen with cooker, Dining room with door leading out into rear garden. Lounge with under stair cupboard. Cloakroom. Family bathroom with shower over bath. Gas central heating. Front and back gardens, Single garage. EPC band C (71)

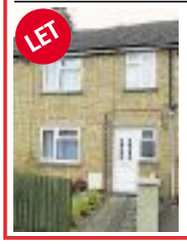
PYMOOR £1,350 pcm

Detached 5 bedroom house set in a rural location. Kitchen with range gas cooker & electric oven & fridge. Utility room. Lounge with wood burner & carpet. Dining room. Cloakroom. Bedroom 1 with shower en suite. Family bathroom with white suite. Bedroom 5 on 2nd floor with en suite. Enclosed rear garden & patio with additional paddock. Ample off road parking. Pets are allowed.EPC Band E

ELY £945 pcm

A well presented modern semi-detached town house. Accommodation comprises of Hall, Cloakroom, Kitchen approx 11' x 7' with electric double oven, gas hob, fridge/freezer and space for slimline dishwasher. L-shaped Lounge/Diner with French doors to rear garden. EPC BAND C

ELY £875 pcm



A well presented 3 bedroom mid terrace house. Lounge/diner with wood burner. Cloakroom. Kitchen/breakfast room with gas hob, electric oven & washing machine along with French doors leading to rear garden. Family bathroom with shower over bath. Neutrally decorated throughout. Enclosed rear garden with shed. EPC band D (64).

SUTTON £620 pcm

A modern Ground floor flat set in the village of Sutton. Lounge with French doors leading into rear garden. Kitchen with base & wall units, gas hob & electric oven. Space for washing machine & fridge freezer. Under floor heating. Rear & side garden with parking 2 cars. EPC Band B..

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Your Guide to Moving Home

Moving home can be a complicated business and in the hectic run up to the big day it is all too easy to forget something vital. The team offers their readers this handy checklist to help avoid any major pitfalls. We suggest you tick them off as you go....

1 4–2 WEEKS TO GO:

- ❑ **Packing** – start packing and sorting through your belongings. Now is a good time to de-clutter and pack items rarely used. Make sure you have plenty of sturdy boxes, bubble wrap and sticky tape.
- ❑ **Removal companies** – get estimates from removal companies, checking that comprehensive insurance cover is available against damage or loss. Is there a packing and unpacking service? Confirm the date of your move with the firm you have chosen.
- ❑ **Insurance** – check on your home contents insurance policies to ensure that you are covered for the move, and covered at your new address.
- ❑ **Utilities** – make arrangements for your gas and electricity meters (plus water meters where relevant) to be read and all your appliances to be disconnected on the day of your move. Arrange to take over gas and electricity at your new address, and make sure that all appliances will be properly fitted, plumbed or connected.
- ❑ **Telecommunications** – Notify your telephone and broadband provider and ask them to make the necessary arrangements for a final account at your present address, and for taking over or installing telephone and broadband facilities at your new home.
- ❑ **Post** – Look into re-directing your post for a few months to make sure you receive all relevant correspondence.
- ❑ **Children** – Look into the possibility of your children, especially young children, staying with family or friends on the day of the move.
- ❑ **Pets** – Make arrangements for any pets to be booked into a cattery or kennels if required. Having your pets microchipped is a good idea and if already microchipped, have the address changed to your new one. Your vet can advise on this.

2

Change of address – tell companies and organisations that you are moving!

Notify:

- ❑ Employer
- ❑ Inland revenue
- ❑ Local council
- ❑ Banks or Building Societies
- ❑ Credit companies, store cards & other accounts
- ❑ Gas, Electricity and water boards
- ❑ Insurance companies
- ❑ Land / mobile phones
- ❑ Internet and cable / satellite TV providers
- ❑ Doctor, Dentist and Opticians
- ❑ DVLA
- ❑ Veterinary surgery
- ❑ TV Licensing

3 1 WEEK TO GO:

- ❑ **Delivery address** – change delivery address of your Cambridge News, milk, groceries and fuel to your new address as appropriate.
- ❑ **Laundry** – do any last minute laundry that you can – have you arranged for a plumber to disconnect your washing machine correctly?
- ❑ **Kitchen cupboards** – go through your kitchen cupboards and throw out anything not in date. Also check that all jars and bottles are correctly sealed before packing.
- ❑ **Fridges / Freezers** – empty and clean out in preparation for moving. If you are moving a freezer and its contents, turn it up to maximum for a couple of days before you move.
- ❑ **Valuables / documents** – put these in safe place for moving day

4 2–1 DAYS TO GO:

- ❑ **Packing** – pack a bag for overnight essentials and toiletries and finish all remaining packing into boxes. Remember to label which room each box is destined for.
- ❑ **Snack box** – pack a box for the kitchen to include essentials like tea, coffee and sugar, as well as the kettle and mugs! Also include other snacks as necessary.
- ❑ **Dismantle and disconnect** – take down curtains, fixtures and fittings and disconnect white goods ready for transport.
- ❑ **Outdoor items** – make sure that these are stacked together and ready to be moved.
- ❑ **Mobile** – place your mobile on charge the night before moving and ensure that all relevant people have your number.

5 ON MOVING DAY:

AT YOUR OLD ADDRESS:

- ❑ Strip beds and pack bedding and nightclothes.
- ❑ Finish packing toiletries box.
- ❑ Direct removal firm personnel or friends helping you move as to what needs to be done.
- ❑ Turn off electric appliances.
- ❑ Disconnect cooker.
- ❑ Turn off boiler / central heating.
- ❑ Turn off water.
- ❑ Read gas meter.
- ❑ Read electricity meter.
- ❑ Secure all windows.
- ❑ Lock all doors.
- ❑ Make final checks and leave key as arranged with new owners.

AT YOUR NEW HOME:

- ❑ Open up & have a look around the new house.
- ❑ Locate fuse box, gas and electric meter and stop cock for reference.
- ❑ Take readings on gas, electric and water meters as appropriate.
- ❑ Organise the direction of boxes to appropriate rooms.
- ❑ Check the van after all is unloaded.
- ❑ Make the beds up for the evening.
- ❑ Sit down and relax – unpack the other boxes the next day.

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Spacious detached property situated in one of Sohams premier locations.Situated close to the High Street and Village College. Master bedroom with ensuite, three further bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen/breakfast room, utility,two reception rooms. Double garage. EPC rating D. NO ONWARD CHAIN.

Soham £179,950

A two bedroom, three reception room extended semi detached house in need of modernisation.gas radiator heating and double glazing, a range of outbuildings and a garage to the rear of the property. EPC Rating D. ALL VIEWINGS NEED TO TAKE PLACE IN DAYLIGHT HOURS.

Soham £122,500

A semi detached bungalow situated on a popular over 55's residential development in Soham with accommodation offering entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, conservatory, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property benefits from electric heating and allocated parking space. EPC Rating: D.

Soham £110,000

Single building plot with outline planning permission for a detached two storey dwelling.

Soham £650 pcm

Two bedroom end terrace house in the popular Town of Soham, comprising of entrance hall, kitchen, lounge/diner with access to the rear garden, bathroom and two double bedrooms. Gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden. Allocated parking. EPC rating: C. Available 20th January 2016. Tenant fees apply.

Soham £800 pcm

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the guide

Feast of Fen art

LOCAL artists Anthony Day and Richard Neal are exhibiting their work in Ely.

Anthony, 93, has lived in Wicken all his life and his artwork reflects the vastness of the Fen landscape.

Richard, who lives in Ely, also paints striking Fenland scenes, although his are renowned for their element of humour too.

Their work is on show and sale at the Old Fire Engine House, in St Mary's Street, until December 23.

The gallery is open 10.30am-10.30pm Monday to Friday and 10.30am-5.30pm Saturday and Sunday.

Call (01353) 662582 or visit theoldfireenginehouse.co.uk to find out more.

the guide

CLOSER TO HOME

● A COMEDY and disco night is being held in Soham on Friday.
Comedians Steve Hall, Steve Bugeja and Ahir Shah will be entertaining the crowds at The Brook. The event is from 8pm until midnight and tickets are £30. Call (01353) 721748 or visit brookentertainment.co.uk.

● MEL Stevens and The Classics are performing in Littleport on Saturday.
The gig is at the ex-servicemen's club from 8.45pm. Call (01353) 860378.

● BOB Watts is hosting a Christmas tea dance in Soham. The event is at The Brook on Wednesday, December 16 from 2-4.30pm. Tickets are £10, which includes festive refreshments. Call (01353) 721748.

● CHARLES Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' is being performed in Ely.
The Matthew Dexter performance is at Centre E, in Barton Road, on Saturday and Sunday, December 19 and 20.
The show is at 7.30pm on Saturday and 3pm on Sunday. Tickets are £7.50 for adults and £5 for children. For tickets, pop into The Drayman's Son micropub or Cloisters Antiques.

● SOHAM Village College's Christmas concert is being held at Ely Cathedral on Wednesday, December 16.
It starts at 7.30pm and tickets need to be booked by calling (01353) 660349.

● AWARD-WINNING radio personality, TV presenter and entertainer, Bob Brolly MBE is coming to Soham.
He and his band are performing an evening of fun, music and dancing at The Brook on Friday, December 18.
The fun starts at 7pm and tickets are £16.50. Call (01353) 721748 or visit brookentertainment.co.uk.

MUSIC

The Fratellis' gig is back on . . .

BACK in the mid noughties, Scottish band The Fratellis were HUGE. With massive indie-disco favourites like Chelsea Dagger, Henrietta, Baby Fratelli and (our own personal favourite) Creepin Up The Backstairs, they had personalities as loud as their hits.

And then… it all went a bit quiet. Lead singer Jon formed a new band, Codeine Velvet Club, then went solo, while the brilliantly-named drummer Mince went heavy metal for a while, before joining up again with Jon who, by this time had gone solo. Still with us?

Okay, so the good news for those harbouring fond memories of the band is that they're now back together, and touring their latest album, *Eyes Wide, Tongue Tied,* which was released this summer to broadly positive reviews.

And the even better news, for those of you who may have been disappointed by the cancellation of their Cambridge date (originally scheduled for last month) is that whatever glitch in the regenerated band's matrix caused them to postpone has obviously now been resolved, and they're going to be here this very Sunday.

Phew. Fratellis: it's great to have you back.

The Fratellis, Cambridge Junction, Sunday, December 13, 7pm. Tickets £18.50 (adv) from junction.co.uk / (01223) 511511.

Tickets from the original date remain valid.

● With Christmas only a couple of weeks away, The Varsity Hotel and Spa will be hosting a special carol service on its stunning roof top terrace this week.
There'll be festive fizz aplenty, with choir and congregational carols performed by leading choristers from Cambridge University, as well as mince pies and mulled wine to amp up the merriment factor.
And, the icing on the cake (or fairy on top of the Christmas tree, should I say?) you can marvel at the spectacular picture postcard views of the Cambridge skyline too.
For those looking to extend the festivities, there's also a chance to retreat to the hotel's restaurant, The River Bar Steakhouse & Grill, to dine on a festive three course meal. How very decadent.
Throw in Hugh Grant and Emma Thompson, and it's pretty much the real-life version of *Love Actually.*
Christmas choir service, The Varsity Hotel & Spa, Monday, December 14 at 7pm. Tickets £10, including drink and mince pie, from thevarsityhotel.co.uk or (01223) 306030.

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MUSIC

CHRISTMAS SHOW: from left: Boo Hewerdine, Kris Drever and John Archer

Boo's Christmas show

THE ever-popular Boo Hewerdine Christmas Show is just around the corner.

And joining Boo this year will be folk musician Kris Drever, East Anglia's premier 60's band, The 6TS, and comedian and magician, John Archer.

Phil Jupitus is guest compere of the show, which is at Ely's Maltings on Tuesday, December 15.

Boo Hewerdine is a local singer/songwriter whose work includes lead singer of The Bible, formed in the 1980s, and reformed in 1994, as well as solo recordings and work for film.

He has also produced records by several artists, including a long association with Eddi Reader.

Boo, real name Marcus, has been described as "one of Britain's most consistently accomplished songwriters".

A spokeswoman for the Christmas show, which is now in its sixth year, said: "Boo's Christmas show is now firmly established as the premier event of the East Cambridgeshire, mid-December, cabaret based, two hundred capacity, council-owned venue calendar.

"Quite an achievement, I think you'll agree.

"Others have watched on enviously at the parade of stars we have brought to our annual night of, if you will, Fentertainment.

'This year their envy will become murderous jealous rage when they see our line-up'

"This year their envy will become murderous jealous rage when they see our line-up.

"Artists appearing will be folk musician Kris Drever, comedian and magician, John Archer, and East Anglia's premier 60's band, The 6TS, not forgetting Boo himself – a stellar line up of music, magic and comedy entertainment."

The show is from 7.30-11pm and tickets are £18.50 each.

For tickets, pop into Burrows Bookshop in Ely's High Street Passage.

Alternatively, visit boohewerdine.net/gigs/ or wegottickets.com/event/334405.

MUSIC

An evening of festive fun in Ely with the Opera Dudes

THE Opera Dudes are hosting a festive gig at Ely's Babylon Gallery on Friday.

The pair – Neil Allen and Tim Lole – are described as "modern day Mario Lanzas performing some of the world's most romantic music".

A spokeswoman for ADeC, which has organised the event, said: "The Opera Dudes comprise a posh former Cambridge scholar and an ex-builder turned international operatic tenor.

"Expect all the usual Opera Dude mix of music and madness with added tinsel and festive frolics.

"You'll be laughing till your sides hurt, enchanted by the wonderful music and not a turkey in sight. Don't miss this seasonal treat!"

Between them, Neil and Tim have performed over 50 operas as well as more than 3,000 concert performances in most of the major theatres and concerts halls around the UK.

The fun kicks off at 7.30pm and tickets are £8 each or £7 for concessions. Call (01353) 616991 or visit babylonarts.org.uk.

Opera Dudes' festive gig at Ely's Maltings on Friday at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 or £7 for concessions. Call (01353) 616991 or visit babylonarts.org.uk.

CLOSER TO HOME

- ELY City Military Band's annual Christmas concert is on Sunday.
The festive extravaganza is at Ely College from 2.30-5pm and tickets are £5.
Call (01353) 663324 or pop into Burrows Bookshop in Ely's High Street Passage.

- KING'S Ely's theatrical company, King's Company, are staging Stephen Sondheim's and James Lapine's 'Into the Woods' this week.
The production is at Ely's Hayward Theatre from Thursday through to Saturday.
Performances are at 6.30pm on Thursday, 7.30pm on Friday and at 2pm and 6.30pm on Saturday.
Tickets are £9 for adults and £6 for children. Call (01353) 653931 or email boxoffice@kingsely.org.

- WILBURTON Theatre Group's Christmas show – Pinocchio The Panto – is being staged this week.
Directed by Alan Marston, the panto is at St Peter's Hall in Wilburton from Thursday through to Saturday.
Performances are at 7.30pm each evening, and at 2.30pm on Saturday.
Tickets are £8 for adults and £6 for concessions.Call (01353) 740321.

- PORKY'S Hot Rockin' are hosting a rock 'n' roll night in Prickwillow on Saturday.
The event is at the Hiam Sports and Social Club. Doors open at 7pm and entry is £6 for members and £7.50 for non-members.
Call (01353) 688269.

- PETER Pan The Musical is Ely's Campaign Amateur Theatre (CAT) group's Christmas production this year.
Directed by Becky Green, the all-singing and all-dancing show is being staged at Ely College from Friday, December 18 through to Sunday, December 20.
Performances are at 7.30pm on Friday, 2.30pm and 7.30pm on Saturday and 2.30pm on Sunday. Tickets are £10 for adults and £7 for under 12's.
Call (01353) 669759, pop into Burrows Bookshop in Ely or visit cately.ticketsource.co.uk.

- FESTIVE cheer will fill the eaves of Ely Cathedral at its 'A Gospel Christmas' concert on Saturday, December 19.
The concert features The Croydon Gospel Choir supported by the Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir with a programme of uplifting seasonal music including Go, tell it on the Mountain and Ding Dong Merrily on High.
Their performance is under the direction of musician Ken Burton and the concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets range in price from £10 to £25.
Call the cathedral box office on (01353) 660349, email box.office@elycathedral.org or visit tickets.elycathedral.org.

Recipe for success

He may have made the final of this year's Great British Bake Off, but Cambridgeshire's Ian Cumming maintains he's "still a newbie" when it comes to making cakes. Alice Ryan calls in to his kitchen in Great Wilbraham to talk about cooking crumble in Sudan, baking a birthday cake for the Dalai Lama, and making *that* road-kill pie for Paul and Mary.

SPECIAL BAKE: Ian presents a birthday cake to the Dalai Lama on stage at the O2 Arena

A MINUTE or so after we settle ourselves at his kitchen table – joined by Freddy the elderly ginger cat, who coils himself carefully on the seat next to mine – Ian Cumming leaps to the sound of a timer pinging. He's got a vat of mincemeat in the oven, and it's in need of a stir.

"I never make enough," he says, heaving a cauldron of the stuff on to the worktop. "So this year I thought I'd really go for it. . ." Hoiking a linen-wrapped bouquet garni from the pan, he sends a deliciously sweet-yet-tart waft my way. Cinnamon, I hazard? And star anise? "Ha! Yes! I do use them quite a lot, don't I?"

As any fan of *The Great British Bake Off* will know, said spices starred in Ian's final showstopper: a tiered carrot cake of colossal proportions, which master baker Paul Hollywood – the Simon Cowell of the Tent of Dreams – declared among the best he'd ever eaten.

Entering this year's competition "woefully unprepared" and "naively, really: I'd only seen half of one series", Ian became an early front-runner after being crowned Star Baker three weeks on the trot – and made it all the way to the final. "I went in with really low expectations. They got even lower after week one, when Paul described one of my bakes as 'like chewing on wallpaper paste'! So to surprise yourself like that. . . It's nice. Really nice."

A record 15 million people tuned in to watch the photographer from Great Wilbraham, trainee anaesthetist Tamal Ray from Manchester and Luton mum-of-three Nadiya Hussain, the eventual winner, battle it out to be crowned the country's best amateur baker.

"I knew the show was popular, but I had no idea it was such a big thing: 15 million people watching the three of us make cakes? Incredible."

"Nadiya was such a worthy winner," adds Ian. "Her depth of knowledge is amazing. And did you hear her acceptance speech? I could have thought about it for a month and not come up with anything half as good."

As you may have gathered, Ian's anything but showy-offy. He's warm, friendly, remarkably self-effacing; qualities which didn't quite shine through on the TV show.

"A group of 20-something girls came up to me at an event the other day, asking for a selfie," says Ian, mincemeat returned to the oven. "I said yes – I know the fame's only going to last for five minutes, so I'm making the most of it! – and they snapped away.

"A few minutes later, I walked past them in the crowd and heard one say to the others: 'I thought he was a bit of a w**ker on the TV, but in real life he's really nice'. I thought 'OK, I'm kind of struggling with that'. . . I guess I'll choose to take it as a compliment!"

FINALISTS: From left, Ian Cumming, Nadiya Hussain and Tamal Ray

Ian first copped stick for being teacher's pet, thanks to his trio of Star Baker gongs, and was then dubbed 'Creepy Ian' by the tabloids – after baking judges Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry a road-kill pie.

"During the audition process, I knew I needed to stand out to stand a chance; so many thousands apply. So in one of my interviews, when I was asked 'What would you bring to the show that's different?', I said I'd like to see Paul and Mary try road-kill pie. The producer's response was: 'Nobody's ever said THAT to me before'."

Before you get the wrong end of the stick, Ian's keen to point out that he only picks up "bumps, not pancakes. And only things you'd find in a game butchers: rabbit, hare, venison. I'm not about to start roasting hedgehog".

And he does it for the most considered reasons: "I'm genuinely disturbed by the amount of greenhouse gases that result from red meat production: it's a serious subject. When it comes to environmental impact, and animal welfare for that matter, wild venison is as good as red meat gets."

As an Ian fan – having a local hopeful to root for was a joy – I suggest the edit of the show wasn't always flattering. "Ah, I don't know. . . I'm my own worst critic. I'd hear myself on TV and think 'Ian! What the hell did you say that for!'.

"We keep a small flock of guinea fowl – we lived in Malawi for a bit and fell in love with them there – and I took some of their eggs into the tent. I thought it would be something a bit different, but I just came across as a bit of a smartarse."

It was at the height of *Bake Off* fever that the Dalai Lama came to the UK; Ian has long been his go-to British photographer. To mark the spiritual leader's 80th birthday, Ian baked him a cake in the shape of a lotus flower and presented it on stage at the O2. "Listening to him talking to Rowan Williams reminded me that all that negative nonsense was just that: nonsense. What guys like these have to say; that's what's important."

Ian first met the Dalai Lama in India and admits being awe-struck. "I didn't know what to say to the guy. He broke the ice by looking down at my great leather walking boots – I'd come through Tibet – and saying 'What very big feet you have'. . ."

It was, remembers Ian, an emotional day: "He was meeting Tibetan refugees. They'd travelled across the Himalayas in the dead of winter to see their god – their king – and they were so moved by the experience. So was I, to be honest: it was one of those occasions I was glad to be able to hide behind the camera."

Bake Off, of course, required Ian to switch sides and appear in front of the lens. He was sometimes emotional there, too, tearing up when he achieved his third Star Baker title – and when he made the final. "I really did put my all into it: I was on five, five-and-a-half hours sleep maximum. If you're going to do it, you've really got to do it."

When asked 'What next?', he confesses the dream is to present an extreme baking show – where, one imagines, he might knock up a batch of crème brûlées half-way up a mountain, or construct a croquembouche in the middle of a desert.

Ian's no stranger to baking in extremis. (And no, I don't mean in the white heat of Paul's psych-'em-out stare.) While wooing wife Elinor, he cooked for her in civil war-torn South Sudan, where she worked for Médecine Sans Frontières; she's now based at Addenbrooke's, an expert in infectious diseases.

"I knew they were having turkey flown out for Christmas as a surprise, but they had no oven to cook it in. So I built one out of old oil cans, and tested it by cooking a tinned pineapple crumble. It probably wasn't the best crumble ever, but it worked."

Ian is far from a lifelong baker; an old flatmate dines out on the fact he used to live on packet chocolate Swiss rolls: "I was just starting out as a photographer and had no money; they were only 19p."

His photographic career has since taken him all over the world – he's worked in more than 50 countries – and seen him published in high-profile places: he's done ads for the likes of BA and Barclays, and five books with the Dalai Lama.

Pictures: Ian Cumming, Warren Gunn and BBC Pictures

Ian met Elinor in Belize (where botfly larvae embedded in his leg, for an added element of adventure), and the couple now have two children, Zoe, 8, and George, 5. The family relocated to Wilbraham, from Sussex, four years ago, and share their home – the most stunning Tudor place, set between the village's church and green – with the cat, the guinea fowl and a pair of guinea pigs.

On *Bake Off*, Ian impressed with creations that were equal parts science experiment and engineering feat; take the fully operational wishing well he constructed in chocolate week. The son of an engineer, he can build almost anything (a zip wire for his kids, a giant catapult for local scouts, a scale model of the Cumming family home for the guinea fowl).

"Paul said 'I bet your kitchen's like a laboratory'," laughs Ian. "But, as you can see, it's anything but."

Containing a collection of rather higgledy cupboards, a temperamental old Aga and a table littered with toys, tools and an in-progress cake mould (Ian likes to make his own: he fashioned the "very fiddly" concentric lotus flower moulds for the Dalai Lama's cake himself), it's the antithesis of state-of-the-art stainless steel.

In the centre of the table sits a pair of festive tarts, fresh from the oven. Ian passes me a slice for taste-testing, and readies a second helping atop the pliers lying in front of me. When you're eating food this good, who needs a plate? Filled with sweet chestnut, topped with caramelised clementine and with a hidden layer of home-made marmalade on the pastry base, the tart's perfection.

Since the Cummings moved to Wilbraham – which is when, inspired by the gifts of their generous garden, Ian really got into baking – they've thrown a party each Christmas, to celebrate the fairy-lighting of the enormous fir

Ian has written us two festive recipes – a frangipani-topped mince pie and a chocolate and chestnut tart, both of which are pictured below.
You'll find the recipes in the bumper Christmas edition of *Weekend* – the Saturday supplement of the *Cambridge News* – on December 19, and, in the meantime, at *cambridge-news.co.uk* (simply search 'Christmas tarts').

IN THE KITCHEN: ***Bake Off*** **star Ian Cumming at his home in Great Wilbraham**

tree which stands right beside their house. "I always make a lot of mince pies for that," says Ian. "I made them for our village bake off too – in fact that's where my *Bake Off* journey really started."

Held in aid of village hall funds, the Great Wilbraham competition fell at Christmastime last year. Ian entered a souped-up version of his usual mince tarts, with a star of brandy butter set into their pastry tops, and a cake decorated with both green tea and orange and cranberry macarons. No prizes for guessing who won.

Encouraged by Elinor – who, so the story goes, fancied going to the bunting-lined garden party which marks the end of each Bake Off series – Ian applied for the real thing.

Several rounds of auditioning later, he got the phone call saying he'd made the live shows. "I was on the phone, trying to take it all in, and George was on the loo doing his finest. All I could hear, in the background, was 'Finiiished!'; children have a way of bringing you back to earth!"

The best thing about doing *Bake Off* was, says Ian, surprising baking behemoths Paul and Mary. "When I told Paul I was putting rosemary in the biscotti, he was a bit alarmed; when he tasted the finished biscuits, he said it had really worked. To be able to surprise them – as well as myself! – was quite special."

Describing himself as more a bread and pudding man than a cake baker, Ian's *Bake Off* triumphs are too numerous to list; his bread flower pot, filled with bread flowers and foliage, stands out in the memory, along with his tiered trio of baked cheesecakes, variously flavoured with spices and home-grown herbs.

For him, the crowning glory was, fittingly enough, his crown-topped Charlotte Russe. "I was the last to finish, and I could feel everyone watching as I stuck on all the little silver balls. . . When I finished, everyone – the bakers, the crew – burst into applause! That was a great moment."

Ian insists he's "still a newbie" when it comes to baking, though: "I'm learning all the time; there are huge gaps in my knowledge. Honestly, you should have seen my trial Madeira cake! It was grey. GREY. It was revolting."

Though his extreme baking show may be a way off yet, Ian is already in demand as a judge; when we meet, he's limbering up for a run of three cake competitions – one run by Bottisham Guides, another at Balsham Primary, and the third, in Cambridge, in aid of mental health charity Mind.

"The first one I judged was at Perse Girls. I got there and the teacher said 'They've got quite excited because you're coming: they've baked 84 cakes'. I tasted them all – I must admit I felt sick as a dog for the rest of the day.

"But if, on the back of doing *Bake Off*, I can bring people a little happiness with my cakes. . . Well, that's a wonderful thing."

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2009 58 HONDA FR-V 1.8 I VTEC ES 5DR LOW MILES, FSH, 2 OWNERS 51,000 miles, Black, Petrol, 5Dr **£7,950**

2005 05 MERCEDES-BENZ SLK 1.8 SLK200 KOMPRESSOR 2DR FULL BLACK LEATHER 65,000 miles Metallic Blue Petrol 2Dr **£7,500**

2008 57 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI SE 4DR FSH/ELEC SEATS 84,000 miles Grey Diesel 4Dr **£6,999**

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2006 06 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI SE SPORTBACK DSG 5DR LOW MILES/AUTO Climate Control, Cruise, Alarm, Alloy Wheels, Radio/CD, 28,000 miles, Silver **£6,990**

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2007 07 MERCEDES-BENZ E CLASS 1.8 E200 KOMPRESSOR CLASSIC 5DR FULL LEATHER 96,000 miles Silver Petrol 5Dr **£5,999**

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2011 61 CHEVROLET SPARK 1.2 LT 5DR 20,500 miles Black 05/09/2011 Petrol 5Dr **£3,999**

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2008 08 RENAULT MODUS 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO/ LOW MILES/DIESEL 35,000 miles Grey Diesel 5Dr **£3,750**

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2009 09 VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4 I 16V EXCLUSIV 2DR (A/C) LOW MILES, FSH, LEATHER 33,000 miles, Black, Petrol, 2Dr **£3,290**

2006 06 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS 1.6 FSI LUNA 5DR AUTO LIGHTS/AUTO WIPERS, FVWSH 90,000 miles Blue Petrol 5Dr **£3,190**

2008 58 FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 8V GP 5DR PANORAMIC ROOF 50,000 miles, Blue Petrol, 5Dr **£2,999**

2008 57 RENAULT MODUS 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE 5DR 1 OWNER, FSH, £30 TAX 67,000 miles Silver Diesel 5Dr **£2,999**

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2004 04 MINI HATCH ONE 1.6 ONE 3DR 97,000 miles Black Petrol 3Dr **£2,490**

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2002 52 MAZDA MX-5 1.8 I 2DR FULL BLACK LEATHER 100,000 miles Silver Petrol 2Dr **£1,999**

2001 51 JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.5 V6 4DR 85,000 miles Green Petrol 4Dr **£1,950**

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Wheels

One in five would make the switch away from petrol

ALMOST one in five (19 per cent) of motorists say they would consider a hybrid or electric vehicle as their next car, a new study has found.

Almost half (47 per cent) of this group said the potentially lower running costs – rather than the cut in emission levels – was the main attraction.

Some 1,555 British motorists took part in the survey which was commissioned for the RAC Report on Motoring 2015.

The motoring organisation warned that the figures demonstrate how changes to vehicle excise duty (VED) are likely to dampen enthusiasm for these vehicles.

Under current regulations cars which produce up to 100g/km of carbon dioxide are exempt from the tax.

But from 2017 only new cars which produce zero emissions will avoid VED. This means that lower-emission models will pay between £10 and £100 in the first year and then the standard annual rate of £140.

RAC chief engineer David Bizley accepted that the Treasury needs to take action to stabilise its income from VED in the wake of falling CO2 levels from new cars.

But he warned that the change in policy could have a detrimental impact on the popularity of low-carbon cars.

SPARKING INTEREST: The Nissan Leaf

"As annual running costs play a significant part in the choice of a new vehicle, the removal of any VED benefit from running ultra-low-carbon vehicles, other than a pure electric vehicle, is bound to have an effect when motorists are weighing up the options," he said.

"We accept the current VED system needs to be changed, but the Government's plans to remove one of the financial benefits of running plug-in hybrid or extended-range electric vehicles – the fastest-growing part of the ultra-low emission vehicle market – could easily put some motorists off buying them."

Latest figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that combined hybrid and electric car sales make up less than 3 per cent of the UK's new car market.

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15	Corsa 1.4 Design 3Dr (New Shape), Met Blue, 4,000 Miles, Huge Saving From New		£9,495
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63	Corsa 1.2 Limited Edition, Met Grey, 18,000 Miles		£8,995
64	Corsa 1.2 Excite, Flame Red, Air Con, 10,000 Miles		£8,995
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61	Corsa 1.2 SE 5Dr, Silver Lake, 28,000 Miles, Air Con, Alloys, Cruise	£7,995	£6,995
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12	Corsa 1.2 Energy 3Dr A/C, Met Grey, 21,000 Miles		£5,995
60	Corsa 1.2 Energy, Limited Edition, Metallic Grey, 3Dr, 21,000 Miles		£5,995
12	Corsa 1.4 SE 5Dr, Met Grey, 56,000 Miles	£5,995	£5,495
60	Corsa 1.3 Turbo Diesel Energy, Met Grey, 23,000 Miles	£5,795	£5,295
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64	Meriva 1.4 Tech Line, Met Blue, 2,000 Miles	£9,995	£9,495
14	Meriva 1.4 SE, Silver, 2,000 Miles	£9,995	£8,995
	ASTRA	WAS	NOW
15	Astra 2.0TD (Diesel) SRi, Silver, Sat Nav, Only 2,000 Miles, Huge Saving Against New	£14,995	£12,995
64	Astra 1.6TD (Diesel), Met Grey, 13,000 Miles		£12,995
12	Astra 1.6 SE 5Dr, Silver, 22,000 Miles		£8,995
61	Astra 2.0TD (Diesel) Elite 5Dr Auto, Black, 35,000 Miles	£9,995	£7,995
12	Astra 1.6 SRi Auto, Silver, 39,000 Miles, Local Car		£7,995
11	Astra 1.6 SE Auto 5Dr, 53,000 Miles, Nice People		£7,495
06	Astra TwinTop 1.8 Sport, Blue, 40,000 Miles	£5,495	£4,995
08	Astra Auto Life 1.8, Metallic Blue, 55,000 Miles		£3,995
	ZAFIRA - 7-Seater	WAS	NOW
14	Zafira Tourer 2.0 Turbo Diesel, Met Black, 18,000 Miles, Sat Nav	£14,995	£13,995
14	Zafira Tourer 1.4 SRi, Black, 33,000 Miles, Huge Saving From New	£13,995	£12,995

	MOKKA	WAS	NOW
64	Mokka 1.7 Turbo Diesel Tech Line, White, Sat Nav, Our Demo	£15,995	£15,495
64	Mokka 1.4 Turbo SE, Black, Leather Trim, 18,000 Miles	£15,995	£14,995
63	Mokka 1.7 Diesel Exclusiv, Silver, 10,000 Miles	£14,495	£13,995
14	Mokka 1.7 Turbo Diesel Exclusiv, Met Red, 19,000 Miles	£13,995	£12,995
	TIGRA	WAS	NOW
05	Tigra 1.8 2Dr Coupé Cabriolet, Silver, Black Full Leather, 50,000 Miles	£3,995	£3,495
	INSIGNIA	WAS	NOW
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62	Insignia 2.0 Turbo Diesel SRi, Met Grey, Sat Nav, 17,000 Miles	£11,495	£10,995
12	Insignia 2.0 Turbo Diesel 5Dr, Silver, 3,000 Miles, Big Wheels, Local Car		£9,995
	EX-DEMOS	WAS	NOW
64	Insignia 2.0 CDTi Ltd Ed, Black, 2,000 Miles Only, Price New	£17,995	£16,995
15	Astra GTC 1.7TD (Diesel) Ltd Ed, Buzz Blue, Big Wheels	£17,995	£16,995
15	Astra 1.4T, White, Leather Trim, Low Miles	£16,995	£15,995
15	Corsa (New Shape) 1.0T SRi VX-Line 3Dr, White, 400 Miles, Host of Extras	£14,995	£13,995
15	Corsa (New Shape) 1.4T 3Dr, Met Blue, 2,000 Miles, Huge Saving From New		£12,995
64	Corsa 1.2 Excite 5Dr, Silver, Delivery Miles Only, Price New	£13,180	£9,995
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13	Honda Jazz VTech 3Dr, Stunning Blue, 33,000 Miles		£8,995
10	Nissan Juke 1.6, Met Red, 62,000 Miles		£7,995
13	Honda Jazz V-Tech 5Dr, Met Blue, 33,000 Miles, Lovely Car		£7,995
63	Kia Picanto City 3Dr, Bright Red, Air Con, Only 3,000 Miles		£6,995
59	Honda Jazz 1.4 V-Tech Exclusive, Silver, 58,000 Miles		£5,995
62	Ford KA 1.2 Zetec A/C, Blue, 15,000 Miles	£5,695	£4,995
58	Ford Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3Dr, Met Blue, 62,000 Miles	£4,995	£4,495
08	Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5Dr, Silver, Air Con, 64,000 Miles, Lovely People		£4,495
54	BMW 120i Sport 5Dr, Silver, 83,000 Miles		£4,295
08	Toyota Aygo 1.0 5Dr Ltd Ed, Silver, 24,000 Miles, Local Family	£4,395	£3,995
59	Peugeot 107 Limited Edition, Met Blue, 59,000 Miles		£3,995
58	Ford Fusion 1.4 5Dr A/C, Met Red, 44,000 Miles	£3,995	£3,695
55	Ford C-Max 1.6 Diesel, Silver, 86,000 Miles		£3,495
09	Citroen Picasso (Estate) 1.6 Diesel, Blue, 85,000 Miles	£3,695	£2,995
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Wheels

The Dacia Sandero heads the list of used best sellers

VALUE for money SUVs and crossovers dominate the Glass's Hot Five of the fastest selling used cars in November.

The Dacia Sandero Stepway heads the list, followed by the Hyundai Tuscon and Vauxhall Antara. In fourth and fifth place respectively are the Renault Captur and Dacia Sandero, bringing the total of Renault-produced cars in the Hot Five to three.

Rupert Pontin, Glass's Head of Valuations, said: "The market for 4x4s and SUVs shows no signs of slowing down and this month's Hot Five is a reflection of that fact, especially as we move into winter and people start to think about tougher driving conditions.

"What is perhaps most surprising about this list is the way in which it is dominated by value or semi-value brands. There is no sign of any of the prestige manufacturers. Buyers of these 4x4s and SUVs, as you can see from the relatively modest selling prices, are looking for well-priced daily transport.

"Value brands, especially Dacia, have figured very strongly in the Hot Five in recent months and it will be interesting to see how they perform as the number of their models on the used market grows over the next year or more."

Glass's Hot Five for November

Model Days to sell Average selling price Average age

1. Dacia Sandero Stepway 15.6 £7,998 14.5 months
2. Hyundai Tucson 28.1 £8,327 84.3 months
3. Vauxhall Antara 28.8 £12,237 30.6 months
4. Renault Captur 29.2 £12,670 11.1 months
5. Dacia Sandero 29.6 £6,390 14.6 months

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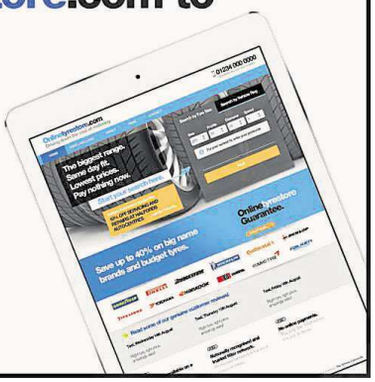

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CHRISTMAS AT ELY CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER
6pm Carol Service (i)
sung by the Cathedral Choir (Girls and men)

TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER
9pm Compline
in the Lady Chapel

THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS EVE
Midday Children's Crib Service (i)
sung by the Ely Cathedral Boy Choristers
3pm Children's Crib Service (ii)
sung by *The Ely Imps*
6pm Carol Service (ii)
sung by the Cathedral Choir (Boys and men)
11.30pm First Eucharist of Christmas
sung by Old Choristers and invited guests

FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS DAY
8.15am Holy Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist
sung by the Cathedral Choir
4pm Evensong
sung by the Cathedral Choir

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER
8.15am Holy Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
4pm Service of Readings and Carols
This service is always led by local singers and their guests and any others available on the day. There is a rehearsal at 2.30pm. If you possess copies of 'Carols for Choirs' (books 1 and 2) please bring them along with you. There will be some copies available on the day.

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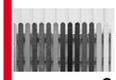

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SPEEDWAY

Fen Tigers closer to completing roster

MILDENHALL have 5.04 points left for the final rider in order to complete next year's team after confirming the return of Berwick teenager Luke Ruddick.

The 17-year-old, who undertook 600-mile round-trips for home meetings in his debut season in the sport, showed enough potential and desire to warrant a second campaign with the KJM Fen Tigers.

Ruddick was arguably Mildenhall's most promising rider in the early stages of the year, outshining and outscoring Tom Bacon, who went on to claim all the plaudits.

His quick speed and raw ability saw him quickly rattle up three double-figure hauls and a brace of eights.

It was form that soon moved him into the team's top five, which ultimately hampered his impressive progress, coupled with an elongated leg injury, sustained in early July, and struggling machinery.

"I have unfinished business at Mildenhall," said Ruddick.

"I probably wasn't as prepared as I needed to be last season to race league speedway.

"It was a massive learning curve and, although things started well, I found the step up into the top five very hard.

"I blew the engine that I was scoring all my points on and then injured my leg, which affected my confidence.

"But I am determined to be fully prepared for next season and have spent £2,000 getting my engines sorted."

Tigers' promoter Kevin Jolly said: "Luke showed plenty of potential on the track but what impressed me more was his commitment to the club and his desire to carve out a career in the sport.

"I have nothing but admiration for him.

"He knows he needs to upgrade his equipment this winter to allow him to really progress, as there is no doubting his natural talent."

Ruddick is the fourth Mildenhall rider to be back from this year's disappointing campaign, joining Dan Halsey, Connor Mountain and Connor Coles.

Jon Armstrong and Rob Parker are two new faces.

DAVID CRANE

BACK FOR MORE: Luke Ruddick has re-signed for Mildenhall Fen Tigers

FOOTBALL

Robins succumb to Woodbridge late on

LATE goals saw Ely go down 2-1 at Woodbridge in the Thurlow Nunn League, First Division on Saturday.

Alex Theobald put the Robins in the driving seat after just three minutes by bundling the ball home from close range.

But the hosts made it all square five minutes from time with a penalty after Josh Sewell was sent off for handling the ball on the line. And Woodbridge grabbed the winner on the breakaway three minutes later.

The Robins, who are third in the table, entertain second-placed Great Yarmouth on Saturday.

Dave Theobald was frustrated to see **Soham Town Rangers** twice get pegged back from the penalty spot as they drew 2-2 at sixth-placed Tilbury in the Ryman League, North Division on Saturday.

The Greens performed well with the wind against them as the first 45 minutes finished goalless.

They were aggrieved to see the Tilbury goalkeeper only receive a yellow card after he handled the ball outside his area, but they went ahead as Ben Sawyer netted from the resulting free kick.

But Tilbury equalised from the spot moments later and they repeated the feat not long after Ryan Horne had restored Soham's lead.

"Before the game if someone had said we'd get a point against a top-six side I'd have taken it," said joint-manager Theobald.

"But after the first 60 or 70 minutes we thought we should have won as we were the better team.

"We went ahead twice in the game and it was disappointing the way we conceded both goals from penalties.

"We played very well in the first half against the wind, getting the ball down and creating quite a few chances.

"It's very frustrating getting pegged back straight away after getting a grip on the game.

"Credit to Tilbury for getting back into the game, but I thought we were the better team."

Soham lost 3-1 at Wisbech Town in the quarter-finals of the Cambs Invitation Cup on Tuesday night..

Ross Paterson put the Greens in front in the 24th minute, but two goals in two minutes put Wisbech 2-1 up at the break.

A third goal in second-half stoppage time sealed Soham's fate.

TABLE TENNIS

Powell steps up to the plate with a maximum

ROBERT Powell took a step up in class in his stride as he helped Fulbourn III defeat Ellesmere II in Ely & District League, Division Two.

He was promoted up the ranks and matched his established colleagues by scoring a maximum, with Ellesmere trio Annette Ginn, David Wiseman and Rhys Burton only mustering four legs between them all evening.

Fulbourn's Russell Cooper and Danny Bates wrapped up the victory for their team with a win over Ginn and Burton in the doubles.

Visitors Comrades II made a good start and were holding hosts Fulbourn IV 4-4.

But then David Lam beat Martyn Hagon in three, and Daniel Hearne-Potton and Lam beat Martin Logan and Hagon in the doubles, also in three, to give Fulbourn the match.

Earlier, Comrades' Adam Speed had scored a maximum and Logan had celebrated beating Hearne-Potton.

Teams began their bids for success in the first round of Handicap Cup.

There were some hard-fought games at Comrades III when the Rule family – Chris (15), Nicky (17) and Melissa (17) – entertained Haddenham II.

For Haddenham, Adam Curry (15) won three and Joshua Curry (18) was successful twice.

And, in what was probably the turning point of the evening, Joe Holland (19) overcame Melissa Rule in five legs to give them the match 6-3.

A maximum from Comrades II's Speed (10) helped them defeat Haddenham I.

And Jon Chapman (11) and Hamish Ryder (10) enabled Fulbourn III to whitewash Impington II.

RUGBY UNION

Dibb at the double as Ely show no Mersea

JOHN Dibb touched down twice as Ely won 45-3 at Mersea Island in Greene King IPA Eastern Counties One.

The Tigers gave away an early penalty that Mersea converted to go 3-0 up inside the first minute.

And it took until the end of the first half for Ely to have a run of possession as they dominated the set piece, and after a catch and drive at a line-out, Ricky Neale touched down.

Ely had the edge over Mersea at the scrum, pushing them off their own ball and Dan Coulson picked up from the back of one set piece to dart through the opposition defence, hand off an opponent and touch down.

Mersea tired in the second half as Ely used the wind advantage to camp in their opponents' half.

After a penalty on the five-metre line, Mitchell Kennett forced his way over for five points, with Joel Scott Paul adding the extras.

Dibb's brace of tries came after he was forced through a gap on the wing by Neale's off-load, and then from a pick and drive on five metres.

Tom Jackson crashed through the Mersea defence for a try under the posts and Lee Coulson sprinted through to touch down after Kennett's break to complete the scoring, with Scott Paul adding the extras.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Perry nets Rovers' winner

LEWIS Perry ensured Haddenham Rovers took a 1-0 win against Abbey Saints in Premier Sock Tape Cambridge & District Colts League Cup.

DOMINOES

Littleport & District Dominoes League

Results: Beet Club 11 Crown 7, Plough A 8 Leisure A 10, West End 11 Ex Serv D 7, Leisure B 9 Hiams 9, Bowls Club 9 Plough B 9.

Knockout Cup semi-finals: West End v Ex Serv D, Beet Club v Hiams. Matches to be played by the end of January. Home teams to organise date with opposing team.

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ELY SPORT

ely-news.co.uk/sport

KEEN: Players gather for the walking football session at Witchford Village College

Father and son lock horns in close contest

FATHER and son Ray and Luke Cox went head to head at the second walking football session held at Witchford Village College.

Run by Dom Hunt and Jamie Douglas on the 3G pitch, the match saw Luke, 28, captain one side, with father Ray, 58, taking charge of the other.

The average age of the players across both sides was 46, and the match was played in good spirits.

Excitement levels were high as there were plenty of blunders and howlers committed by both sets of players.

The decisive moment came when Luke Cox scored a 30-yard screamer to put his Greens side 3-2 ahead, beating father Ray, who was in goal, in the process.

Football

Ray's non-bibs players could not capitalise on a chance to equalise from the spot after Dom Hunt took a forbidden step into the penalty area.

Malcom Thomas stepped up to take the penalty, but the 59-year-old former Cheltenham goalkeeper could not convert it, and the Greens roared to victory.

The next walking football match is due to take place on the 3G pitch on January 31 at 10.30am.

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Goodjohn targeting titles after triumph on return

Boxing

STORM Desmond may have been wreaking havoc outside, but for 18 minutes on Saturday night all of the attention inside York Hall was on Tornado Tyler.

After little shy of an 11-month self-imposed break from boxing, Tyler Goodjohn made his comeback at the spiritual home of British boxing in Bethnal Green and chalked up a points victory over awkward Croatian Ivo Gogosevic.

This was a reboot of the Wentworth man's career in more ways than one, starting with this six-round contest seeing him step up a division to welterweight.

But, chiefly, it was the start of what Goodjohn hopes is a new approach to his craft, aiming to shake off the reputation which saw him acquire the 'Tornado' soubriquet due to being involved in so many toe-to-toe wars.

The English super-lightweight champion admitted there were moments he almost slipped back into his old ways, although some stern words from coach Steve Whitwell in between rounds and the danger posed by unpredictable opponent Gogosevic kept him focused.

"A couple of times I thought 'I'm going to go to war with this guy and I'm going to be in a crowd-pleasing fight'," said Goodjohn.

"But I went back in round three and my trainer (Whitwell) said 'you need to box' and really laid the law down to me.

"When I watch it back, it'll be a case of I've won, I don't need to get cut and blood all over the ring, and we move onto the next one."

The 60-54 verdict on referee Kieran McCann's scorecard perhaps does not portray how much work Goodjohn had to do against Gogosevic, who tried everything from the 'Ali Shuffle', switching to southpaw and even, at one point, punching himself repeatedly before launching an attack to unsettle the 24-year-old.

Nevertheless, Goodjohn's patience was rewarded with the 12th win of his 16-fight career and he is eyeing being back among the title contenders soon – ideally with a fight closer to home as a reward for his vocal 'Fen Army' of fans who cheered from the balcony all fight.

"I'm looking for titles," said Goodjohn.

"This guy wasn't at the level I've fought at before and it's one of those where I'm always going to up my game the better people I fight

"I want to be fighting good people and I want to be fighting for titles because that's my level.

"Hopefully we can get a local fight because that would be nice for my support because they've always had to go to London or Manchester.

"It would be a big thank you to everyone for all of their travelling."

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